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KUWAIT

SRI LANKA FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

LD111136Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 11 Jun 78 LD

[Excerpt] A.C.S. Hameed, Sri Lanka foreign minister, arrived in Kuwait last night on a 4-day official visit at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah to discuss relations between the two countries and matters of common interest.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM SUSPENDED FOR CARICATURING AS-SADAT

JN1012O7Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1155 10 Jun 78 JN

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 10 June--The Kuwaiti Information Ministry has suspended the daily newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM for 3 days for publishing two caricatures in its issues of today and yesterday. The caricatures are considered harmful to Anwar as-Sadat, ruler of the Egyptian regime.

OMAN

PFLO ISSUES STATEMENT ON 9 JUNE REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY

LD101702Y Aden Voice of Oman in Arabic 1545 GMT 9 Jun 78 LD/EA

[Statement issued by the Central Executive Committee of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman, PFLO, on the anniversary of the 9 June Revolution--date and place of issue not given]

[Excerpts] Masses of our Omani people, masses of our Arab nation, friends and allies of the revolution everywhere: Today is the 13th anniversary of the 9 June Revolution. We celebrate with our freinds and allies everywhere, together with the supporters of freedom justice and progress, this immortal occasion that is dear to our hearts.

British commanders and advisers still fill the sensitive posts in the country, both civil and military. The British ambassador in the capital, Muscat, is still the real sultan who gives orders, not Gabus, who is just a stooge. With the exception of a number of schools and hospitals, the real beneficiaries of all other reforms are the foreigners, the agent family of Al Bu Sa'id, the great merchants and the land and estate owners.

Keeping the doors of Oman wide open to the international monopolies and the foreign multinational companies of the United States, Britain, France, Japan, South Korea and Iran in the fields of agriculture, fisheries and animal wealth--in addition to oil copper and other minerals--has subjected the country's resources to exploitation by imperialism. This has imposed many new problems and tragedies on the life of the Omani peasants, workers, fishermen and herdsmen, because of the deadly competition, harassment, and confiscation by the monopolies of vast agricultural lands and fishing waters, and also because of exploitation in all its forms. Meanwhile, repression, terror and the confiscation of the simplest personal and human rights are on the increase. The police and fascist nature of the regime is worsening.

The temporary military setback suffered by our forces in the southern region was a great gain for the enemy and there has been a corresponding rise in the morale of the enemy ranks, which had been low owing to the successive campaigns against them and to the defeats they had suffered.

The Muscat agent regime and its masters are fully aware that the revolution continues and that it constitutes a threat to its existence.

The imperialist and reactionary circles and the Qabus agent regime are as worried today as they were before that we will reject treacherous settlements and mediation with them. We will also reject anything less than the freedom and independence of Oman and the liquidation of the foreign presence in all its forms, new and old. We want to establish a national democratic regime.

We are as determined as ever to struggle firmly in every way. The main form of struggle is the armed struggle to establish a free, independent and democratic Oman.

We have come a long way and made important progress in completing the necessary conditions to reescalate the confrontation between us and the enemies of the people on all fronts and by all forms of struggle. In all this we rely on the past experience and the support and backing of our militant people.

The future development of the struggle and confrontation between the Omani people and its leadership, the front, on the one hand, and the imperialists and Iranian invaders, the family of Al Bu Sa'id, on the other, will this time be more comprehensive, diversified, organized, entrenched and vicious.

We are fully aware that we are fighting in an area that is highly important and sensitive, and under the most complicated and grave conditions. Oman means a great deal to the imperialists and the capitalist camp in general--in particular to the United States, the boss of world imperialism.

Long live the Arab nation! Long live internationalist solidarity and friendship among nations! Long live solidarity among the socialist countries, the national democratic liberation movements and the progressive workers parties in the world! Long live the revolutionary groups in the Arab Gulf and peninsular areas! Long live the militant, firm and deep-rooted relations between the Yemeni and Omani peoples! Long live the firm militant relations between the 14 October and 9 June glorious revolutions! Long live the firm comradely relations between the United Political Organization-National Front and the PFLO! Long live the 13th anniversary of the glorious 9 June Revolution! Victory to the just struggle for a free, independent, democratic and united Oman.

SAUDI ARABIA

INFORMATION MINISTER DENIES REPORTED SAUDI-ISRAELI MEETINGS

LD1011187 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1031 GMT 10 Jun 78 LD

[Text] Riyadh--Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani, minister of information, today categorically denied reports circulated by suspect papers about a secret meeting between some Saudi officials and Israelis in certain European capitals. His excellency stressed that no meeting at all has taken place between any Saudi official and any Israeli official.

Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani, replying to reports from REUTER quoting the French LE MONDE, stated that these lies are being circulated by Zionist quarters and suspect quarters. He described these lies as fabrications without any basis. His excellency stated that the kingdom's posture is firm, principled and declared.

OIL MINISTER SAYS SOVIET UNION WANTS TO CONTROL OIL SOURCES

NC102150Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2038 GMT 10 Jun 78 NC

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 10 June--Shaykh Zaki Yamani, minister of petroleum and mineral affairs in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, has warned that the Soviet Union is following a policy aimed at controlling the petroleum routes and sources, or at least some of the sources. Shaykh Yamani explained that the Soviet Union's objective is to guarantee that it will obtain the petroleum supplies it needs after turning from an oil-producing to an oil-importing state.

In an interview he granted to the Saudi paper 'UKAZ, the Saudi minister of petroleum and mineral affairs added that the policies Saudi Arabia is adopting within OPEC on freezing petroleum prices are temporary policies related to the nature of the current stage of international economic conditions, which make it necessary to follow this type of petroleum policy.

Regarding the petroleum situation in Saudi Arabia, Shaykh Yamani pointed out that what has been discovered exceeds what is being produced. This, he said, puts the kingdom in an influential position as far as petroleum is concerned at this stage and in the coming stages.

EGYPTIAN ECONOMY, FINANCE MINISTERS ARRIVE IN RIYADH

JN111947Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1915 GMT 11 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 11 June--Egyptian Economy and Economic Cooperation Minister Dr Hamid as-Sayih and Finance Minister Mahmud Salah ad-Din arrived in Riyadh today for a 2-day visit to Saudi Arabia. During their stay, the two Egyptian ministers will have talks with Saudi officials on economic and financial cooperation between the two countries.

Received by King Khalid

LD120326Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1620 GMT 11 Jun 78 LD

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 11 June--King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz today received at his office at Al-Ma'dhar Palace Hamid as-Sayih and Dr Mahmud Salah ad-Din, the Egyptian ministers of economy and finance, who are now on a 2-day visit to Saudi Arabia.

UAE

MAURITANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN ABU DHABI

JN110638Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0620 GMT 11 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 11 June--Mauritanian Foreign Minister Hamdi Ould Mouknass arrived here early today on a 2-day official visit to the UAE. He was received at the airport by Planning Minister Sa'id al-Ghabbash, Foreign Ministry Under Secretary 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Jarwan, several Foreign Ministry officials and the Mauritanian ambassador in Abu Dhabi.

The Mauritanian minister will convey a message to UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from his brother President Moktar Ould Daddah. The message deals with the current Arab situation and relations between the two countries.

AL-ITTIHAD SCORES ETHIOPIAN LEADER'S STATEMENTS

JN092054Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 9 June--The Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD warned in its editorial today of recent statements by Mengistu Haile Mariam, the Ethiopian military ruler, against the Eritrean people. The paper says that these words are dangerous and that Mengistu's admission of losses among his forces should not be taken as actual fact.

The paper explains that the Ethiopian regime wants to delude the world that the Eritrean revolutionaries are murderers and aggressors, despite the whole world's awareness of the real aggressor. The statement is preparation for a horrible massacre against the Eritrean people.

Commenting on Mengistu's slanders against the UAE and other Arab countries for supporting the Eritrean people, AL-ITTIHAD says that the whole world is accustomed to seeing the UAE support peoples struggling for right and justice. Mengistu's attack on these countries will only make them more determined to carry out their duties.

Concluding its editorial, the paper wonders if Mengistu's words will prompt the Arab countries to take serious and studied action to foil the Ethiopian crime before it occurs.

YEMEN--PDRY

DEFENSE MINISTER COMMENTS ON VISIT TO E. EUROPE, USSR

LD092050Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Jun 78 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar, member of the Central Committee and minister of defense, returned to Aden this afternoon from the USSR. He spent several days in Hungary, the GDR, Bulgaria and the USSR, where he held official talks on bilateral relations.

In a statement to the press, Brother 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar said that his visits to these countries were successful and achieved their objectives. The appreciation and respect shown by those countries for Democratic Yemen will bolster our faith and make us more steadfast in our stands. He expressed his view that Democratic Yemen's relations with the organization of socialist countries were growing and developing day by day as a natural result of the common stands adopted in the face of the enemies of progress, socialism and peace in the world, led by U.S. imperialism.

Brother 'Antar explained that since the corrective step, Democratic Yemen had been eager to consolidate its relations with the states of the socialist organization led by the USSR, in line with the course which we have chosen, which we will continue to follow and whose banner we are holding aloft.

Ending his statement, he affirmed that our task today is not confined to the gains and achievements of the revolution, but should include work to develop further those gains and achievements in the political, party, economic and military fields.

PRESIDENT AS-SADAT MEETS WITH AIR FORCE UNITS

NC111456Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1434 GMT 11 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Bilbays, 11 June--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat met with the commanders, officers and men of the air, air defense, shock and paratroop forces at the air college in Bilbays at noon today.

The meeting was attended by Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak; the chief of the president's office, Hasan Kamil; and the superintendent general of the food security projects in the governorates, Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman.

The meeting started with a recitation from the Holy Koran. Chief of Staff Lt Gen Muhammad 'Ali Fahmi, Commander of the Air Force Air Maj Gen Mahmud Shakir 'Abd al-Mun'im and the commander of the air defense force delivered speeches welcoming President as-Sadat and renewing the pledge of the armed forces to be fully prepared to complete the liberation of the land.

President as-Sadat delivered an important political speech at this meeting.

The president arrived at the air college premises at 1245 today. He was welcomed by Lt Gen Muhammad 'Ali Fahmi, Maj Gen Shakir 'Abd al-Mun'im, Major General Hilmi and commanders of the branches and units in the armed forces, the air defense, shock and air forces.

Makes Speech

NC111516Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 11 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Bilbays, 11 June--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has announced that Egypt will produce fighter bombers by 1980. He also announced that Egypt will produce its first jeeps next December.

President as-Sadat said that General al-Jamasi on his return from the United States will submit to him a full plan for developing all the branches of the armed forces.

He said that under the plan for the development of the armed forces, the armament of "missiles corps" and the air force will be completely Westernized.

The president said this during his meeting today with the commanders, officers and men of the air force and air defense forces at the air academy in Bilbays.

President as-Sadat reaffirmed that his peace initiative has not failed. He declared that if the initiative fails he will tell the people and the armed forces frankly.

The president emphasized that he does not have two policies or two faces. He said we are for peace based on justice, which means the return of the 1967 territories, including the West Bank and Gaza.

President as-Sadat added that Israel is now telling the world "that As-Sadat is talking about war" and that this is propaganda and playing for time. The president reaffirmed that there will be no truce with the Marxists or with those who want to revive the society of the 1 percent or with the centers of power.

The following is the text of President as-Sadat's speech:

In the name of God, my sons, men of the armed forces, the air defense forces, the shock troops and paratroopers: I thank God as I meet with you on this occasion in this place, as we and the world celebrate 5 June, marking the anniversary of reopening the canal for navigation. It is a day that has removed from our history all the defeat and sorrow which 5 June previously represented.

The whole world is celebrating the occasion with us. It is now a day celebrated by the world, by Egypt and by the Arabs now that your Arab nation--and your people are part of it--has regained its dignity, its place and its pride. You and your brothers in the other branches of the armed forces have accomplished this and have made it possible.

The whole world had imagined that we would never be able to move. The world had looked on us with pity and mockery, but your performance, my sons, your fighting and your will power have turned 5 June from a day of grief to a day of triumph for the Egyptian fighter, for the will of the Arab nation, for the will of right, for the will of force and for the will of peace.

I have no right to claim that I did anything except that I issued the order to you. You responded my sons. You responded with determination. You responded with vigilance. You responded with a will that shook those who claimed that their army was invincible.

On the 4th day of the October war the whole world realized who was the Egyptian fighter, who were the Egyptian people, what was the Egyptian will. You did all that. I did not do anything. You did that with your excellent performance in the fighting, with the first airstrike which caused the enemy to abort all its efforts for 4 days and more. From the force of the shock, the enemy did not know what to do for 4 days. The enemy did not know what was happening to its units. The first airstrike completely paralyzed the enemy in Sinai. You in the air force did that. The enemy used to tell the world that its air force was the long arm which could reach anywhere. The air defense forces, in cooperation with the air force and the other branches of the armed forces, were able to cut this long arm and to shoot down one-third of the Israeli air force in the first 3 days.

You did all that. I did not do anything except issue the order to you after I had prepared everything with the commanders. You did that; all the branches of the armed forces did that.

The shock troops did that. They sacrificed their lives behind the enemy lines. They operated with determination and ferocity behind the enemy lines, in the bulge, and just recently in order to affirm Egypt's will and dignity they carried out their excellent work in Cyprus.

It is true that you were fired at from behind, but it was a glorious battle. You carried out the task and performed the noblest duty, which is that of preserving your country's dignity. Although you were shot in the back, you performed the task most perfectly so that everyone should know that Egypt will punish anyone who wants to undermine its dignity anywhere in the world.

The paratroopers also carried out their duty. We do not forget what they and their brothers, the shock troops, did behind the enemy lines and in the bulge, which some spiteful and defeatist people thought would mark our end. You did all that, my sons, you and your brothers in all the branches of the armed forces. I take no credit.

If there is any credit, it is for you. You earned it through your heroic performance, your performance which was ferocious and which taught the enemy a lesson he will not forget. It is the lesson which taught the enemy that the Egyptian fighter and the Egyptian will, even after 30 years, will smash everything before them.

You taught a lesson to those who have filled the whole world with their propaganda. You taught them a lesson with your will, with your fighting, with your performance. Egypt and the Arab nation will remain indebted to you and will be proud of you.

As for myself, Almighty God knows that each one of you is like a dear son. I see in each one of you a model of how we should build the Egyptian man in all places of work and in all places of production.

This is why, sons, I went to Jerusalem. You heard me say that if sparing one drop of the blood of any soldier or officer among my sons in the armed forces required me to go to the ends of the earth, then I would go to the ends of the world, including the Knesset, to address the Knesset and the Israeli people in the heart of their home. I actually addressed them.

I did not go there to ask for peace at any price. Never. The Israelis and the whole world know that we acted from a position of strength and a position of strength to the extent that some in Israel wrote and said at the time: Why did none of the Israeli leaders rise after their victory in the June 1967 battle to the level of the required responsibility and carry out an initiative similar to mine? This is their testimony. It was from a position of strength that I went to them in the heart of their home. It was from the position of sparing blood and lives that I went to them and confronted them with everything they could be confronted with and even more.

I was astonished. I thought that after my speech in the Knesset I would be met with little enthusiasm on my return to the hotel. What actually astonished me is that after the frank, clear and hard speech, the entire people of Israel came out, while I was on my way back from the Knesset to the hotel, to declare their support and also declare that they respect the will of Egypt and also respect the Egyptian fighter.

Sons, you have earned the respect, admiration and veneration of the whole Israeli people and their armed forces. They did not conceal this fact from us but actually asked me to convey it to you. I was proud of you then as I am always proud of you and your performance.

We went ahead with the initiative, my sons, as you heard me telling your brothers in the 2d Army. I started the initiative last November. I later met with the Israeli prime minister in Ismailia. We formed two committees, one political and the other military. The Israeli stand continued to stumble because the Israelis were not ready, as it turned out, for such a step, which has pushed the issue hundreds of years forward. They were not ready and they are still hesitant. However, has the initiative ended? Has it failed? Never. The entire world from the United States in the West to Australia in the East has supported the initiatives. The entire world stands with us now and tells Israel: You must adopt steps in answer to this unprecedented and mighty action. The entire world is demanding this from Israel.

The United States has always been Israel's main supporter to the extent that it used to give Israel everything, to do as it pleased with. Israel enjoyed the U.S. support in all that it did, but all this has been shaken and has changed.

Two weeks ago the 100-member U.S. Senate approved the tripartite arms deal covering Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Israel. Israel has no longer a monopoly over the United States. The United States is again playing an even-handed role. Furthermore, when Israel attacked southern Lebanon, I--as you heard me tell your brothers in the 2d Army and yourselves--was in continuous contact with President Carter for 24 hours. For the first time, the United States officially submitted a draft resolution to the Security Council calling for the immediate Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon and for the formation of a UN emergency force within 24 hours. The Security Council unanimously supported it, with the exception of the Soviet Union which opposed it and instructed its satellite Czechoslovakia, which was a Security Council member, to do the same. I wonder if they did so because the resolution calling for the immediate withdrawal and for the formation of a UN emergency force within 24 hours was an American resolution. This is a radical change in the U.S. method of dealing with the Middle East. Did the Soviet Union not approve of the resolution because it was an American resolution?

What if I were to agree to the Soviet Union's request in 1972 when I was in Moscow? They could not even ask me directly. They asked our ambassador there, Murad Ghalib, to pass the request on to me, but he refused to do so and advised them not to raise the question. When I was on a visit to Moscow in 1972, they suggested bringing Golda Meir to Tashkent so that she and I could sit together and settle the problem. At that time I was making preparations for the October battle. How could I do that when I was fragmented, when I was the vanquished and she was the victor? How could I sit with her then? It was natural for our ambassador to have refused to pass such a request to me. Because it was their idea, and although we were in a state of defeat, it was acceptable to the Soviet Union, which made it and insisted on it. However, the Soviet Union cannot accept the fact that [in undertaking the initiative] we broke all barriers and jumped over all hurdles from a position of victory and strength, and after you have commanded Israel's respect as a result of your performance--and the people and armed forces can now hear me. The Soviet Union objects to all this and it claims over Moscow Radio and through its agents in the Arab nation--and some of its agents are regrettably so-called Egyptians--that Egypt has abandoned the cause and is after a separate solution.

My sons, you all heard that when he came here on 25 December and we sat at the negotiating table, Begin told me and the Egyptian delegation that was with me that there is no problem regarding Sinai, that the borders between Egypt and Israel are the international borders and that this is the Israeli Cabinet's decision and that he was officially communicating this decision. I told him then: The problem is not Sinai. You will recall, my sons, that when I was at the Knesset, the heart of Israel, I addressed all the Israeli people and said: I have not come to beg for lands. My land is sacred and there can be no discussion or argument about it. I also said that I wanted a just peace, Israel's withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the restoration of the rights of the Palestinian people. I clearly said at the Knesset: I have not come here to seek a separate solution, partial settlement or a third disengagement agreement, but I have come here for the sake of peace. I also said literally: I have not come to you to beg for my land. My land is sacred and this is not a subject for discussion.

I said all this in my speech at the Knesset. What is strange is that after this speech, which was carried by television, the world radios and the press, the Soviet Union came and said that Egypt was after a separate solution.

It urged its agents in the area and those who grew under its protection here in Egypt to spread this propaganda and say that Egypt is seeking a separate solution. Had I been after a separate solution, my sons, I would not have needed to embark on this initiative. I know and the entire world knows that Israel would greatly welcome it if Egypt were to leave the battle by getting what Egypt wants, because what Israel wants is for the Egyptian forces--which are the main force which is taken into account and respected by the Israeli people and armed forces--to leave the battle. This would mean a real victory for Israel because nobody would be able to stand against it after this. I said that had I been after a separate solution, I would not have needed to embark on any initiative at all.

You heard me, my sons, what I said in my speech to the 2d Army. I said that during his last visit here the Israeli defense minister strongly urged me to sign a peace treaty. He said that they have no demands in Sinai or regarding anything. I refused. I reminded him of what I said in the Knesset; namely, that Egypt's policy is that it wants peace for the region and that Sinai is not the problem.

You heard my speech in the Knesset. I said that Sinai is my land and that I have not come to beg. My land is not up for discussion. I said this in the clearest terms in the Knesset.

I told the Israeli defense minister that the problem is not Sinai. The problem is peace. Without solving the Palestinian problem we cannot build peace. If I know that my signing of a peace agreement with Israel would achieve peace in the area, I would not hesitate to do that. I told him more than that. I told him: Even if you sign a peace agreement with me and with Syria and Jordan and you do not solve the Palestinian issue, there will be no peace, and after 5 or 10 years we will start a new war.

This is our stand which I have declared in the Knesset, in Ismailia and in all of our contacts.

As you know my sons, I do not have two policies or two faces. The whole world knows this. We are after peace based on justice, the return of all the lands lost in 1967, foremost of which are the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights.

The Soviet Union is still living in a world of propaganda and slogans. Because it cannot get at me regarding the peace initiative, which has dazzled the whole world, it is saying that we are after a separate solution. Let the Soviet Union say what it wants. However, we must proceed in our way.

The initiative has not failed, my sons. If it has failed, I would have frankly told you so, as I have always done. I would have frankly told the people that the initiative had failed.

Every day the initiative is bringing about something new, the latest of which is the arms deal with the United States. After more than 20 years of confrontation, real confrontation, the American people, the U.S. Congress, the U.S. President and the U.S. administration now understand, support and admire Egypt. They admire Egypt's policy; they admire you my sons. This fills me with pride and happiness. This is a result of your wonderful performance in fighting.

Israel is still afraid of peace. It has not prepared itself for peace. The initiative is bigger and greater than what Israel could have imagined. This is why the Israeli Government is adopting this stand.

Perhaps you read what is happening in Israel every day; 50,000 people have demonstrated in a small state like Israel. This is an indication and has significance--50,000 people from the Peace Now Movement have demonstrated. Writers, university professors and reserve officers have joined this movement. They have signed petitions which they have sent to the government. All this is happening.

As I have told you, the peace process still needs some time so that the Israeli Government may be able to comprehend the dimensions of the initiative and answer it.

My sons, you heard me say that I am optimistic. Even if I were not optimistic, I would have told you that I am optimistic. The question is only one of time. Israel cannot continue to live isolated from the world as it does now. As I told you, everything inside Israel, the international arena and the United States is pointing in the right direction--the establishment of a just peace. The Israelis are now trying to buy time. They are trying to find points with which to gain time. They say that As-Sadat has spoken of war, has threatened war, and that As-Sadat is again threatening this and that.

These are tunes of the psychological warfare which you, my sons, found out in October. You know what happened in the first 2 days of the battle, and the credit for this also goes to you. All the world radio and television stations were broadcasting fabricated Israeli communiques and transmitting pictures of the 1967 battles which Israel had sent to the world radio stations in an attempt to conceal its disappointment after 48 hours [of the October battle]. The entire world became aware of this, and the first to apologize was London radio, which officially apologized in its newcast for all it had broadcast in the previous 2 days. They began to broadcast communiques about the progress and facts of the battle--about your magnificent performance, my sons.

The whole world became aware of this. It also became aware of the fact that the claim that Israel is a small, peaceful island in the midst of enemies who want to throw it into the sea is not true.

When I went to the heart of Israel and its den and challenged [the Israeli leaders] with peace, it became clear to the entire world that Israel's 30 years of peace talk was no more than psychological warfare. Israel's stand has now been exposed, as I told you, sons. The initiative has not failed, but it is assuming wider and deeper dimensions each day. This, however, does not mean that we must not be fully alert. I told you that the only reason for the initiative is not because I am afraid or that we in Egypt are afraid or reluctant, but because I want peace for my people, country, kinsmen, area and the entire world. I want a just peace without having to shed one drop of the blood of any soldier or officer among my sons. If I were to hesitate in this, I would be betraying my country and my historical responsibility. I will go to and work in the ends of the world to achieve a just peace.

My sons, you heard what I said when the Israeli defense minister visited me in Ismailia and when he tried to raise the question of the settlements in northern Sinai. You and the whole world, including Israel, heard me say what I told the Israeli defense minister on that day when he raised the issue of the settlements in northern Sinai. I told him verbatim: If this is what you think, then let me tell you that just as I said that I was prepared to go to the ends of the earth to establish peace without shedding one drop of blood, I want you to know that if you open this subject in front of me again I will fight you to the ends of the earth. This is what I said, my sons.

In its propaganda now Israel is trying to say that in his speeches to the 2d Army and 3d Army As-Sadat is again speaking of war. I say, as I said to the Israeli defense minister, that I am for peace based on justice. Egypt's mind and heart are open to any new elements in the Israeli position, so we may discuss them and indeed begin, on that basis, to establish a just peace.

We do not hesitate at all. Likewise and with the same resolve we are prepared to give Israel peace and security, but we will never cede any piece of land or sovereignty. If they consider this as a sounding of the war alarm, well they are free to do so. We say yes to peace and yes to security, but we say no when it comes to [ceding] territory or sovereignty. Our position is clear.

In our battle, my sons, it is imperative that I give attention to the exercise of democracy. You have heard me talk to the 3d Army about this exercise of democracy and about the recent referendum, and about the verdict of our people regarding our democracy and those who are trying to obstruct it.

You perhaps recall, my sons, that God willed the 15 May Revolution to begin in this very hall. You remember it. I remember it very well. It was 12 May. I was meeting with you here and I spoke to you about the centers of power and I said that I would not tolerate them and that I would crush them. The very next day, on 13 May, the rectification process, the 15 May Revolution began. God has willed that I come to you today with a new rectification to complete that of 15 May.

We carried out our first corrective movement on 15 May 1971. With this movement we corrected the course of the mother revolution, the 23 July Revolution. No arrogant person can deny the gains of the 23 July Revolution for the good of our people. The 23 July Revolution was a turning point in our history and has become part of history, a part of reality and a part of the past, present and future. No presumptuous person can deny this, and we do not pay attention to such people.

However, mistakes did occur. The 15 May Revolution started here, from this place on 12 May 1971. The 15 May Revolution was carried out for the sake of democratic life, for the establishment a state institutions, for a permanent constitution, for the sake of freedoms and for the sake of closing the detention camps forever. The 15 May corrective revolution was carried out in order to bring security and safety to the Egyptian citizen--security and safety to his honor, family, property and his future and the future of the generations after him.

I continued my work, my sons, as you have seen me and as you have followed me. Immediately after the May revolution, I introduced the permanent constitution. I introduced freedoms. I closed the detention camps in 1971. The detention camps will remain closed forever, God willing. I abolished all the extraordinary measures. I abolished custodianships. I redressed the wounds. I took out from prison even those who were convicted by courts. I eliminated all this.

What only remained was the freedom of the press. However, I was preparing for the October battle. It was inconceivable for me to allow defeatism to penetrate us from Beirut and from other places in the Arab world where defeatism was being spread in the hearts.

In 1972, as you recall--and this was a basic factor in the strategy of the battle-I issued my orders in July for the expulison of the Soviet experts in 1 week. They actually left in 1 week. In the strategy of the battle, there was a basic factor, which was that the battle should not begin while there was a single Soviet soldier in Egypt under any capacity.

It is the habit of the Soviets to claim credit for any victory we achieve and to blame us for any failure. After the battle of 1967, in order to achieve their ends in our country, they told 'Abd an-Nasir: Your army did not fight because your officers are bourgeois. You must purge the army of the bourgeois officers.

Several things happened then--dismissals and transfers to civilian jobs. Perhaps no one of you knew the reasons then. It was said that these purges took place for reasons of security--security of the armed forces. However, the fact is that the Soviet Union told 'Abd an-Nasir that his officers were bourgeois and could not fight. The Soviets wanted to achieve their ends. They exploited everything, even our defeat.

By God, these bourgeois officers are the ones who dazzled the whole world with their heroic and brilliant performance, which history has recorded up to this day and which has been recorded by the higher military institutes. The crossing of the Suez Canal, the most difficult water barrier in military history, and the storming of the Bar-Lev line--those who did all this were the bourgeois officers.

This is why I planned that not one Soviet citizen should remain on the land of Egypt. We were prepared to accept the results of the battle alone. If we were to be defeated, then we would be responsible, and if we were to triumph, then this would be due to our performance and we would get the credit.

God, may He be praised, granted us victory. The Soviet Union had expected the opposite. You know this in the air force. The vice president was the commander of the air force at the time. By the way, he is much respected in Israel because the lesson he gave the Israelis was painful.

Vice President Husni Mubarak came to me and said: The Soviet Union's official assessments are that we would achieve 30 to 35 percent of our goals by the first strike but that the losses would be 40 to 45 percent. The losses would be 40 to 45 percent and we would achieve 30 to 35 percent of our goals. This was their assessment. We entered the battle, and I do not need to give the results. The first strike was carried out magnificently. The losses were less than 2 or even 1 percent.

The truth, my sons, is that Egypt is indebted to you for your splendid and dazzling performance in October. This is why, as I told you, it was my intention in 1972 not to permit the presence of one Soviet citizen on the land of Egypt when we began our battle.

In 1973 something happened, my sons, regarding the practicing [of democracy] as I told you. I had closed the detention camps, lifted the custodianships and canceled the confiscation orders. I healed the wounds and even released the convicted held in the prisons. The atmosphere was one of security and safety for each citizen, family and person. But we have, regrettably, a faction here in Egypt which is made up of the group that is inspired by Moscow--this is a very small minority as you know--or of some persons who lost their positions as a result of the corrective revolution.

The 15 May corrective revolution revealed that in their actions and aims the centers of power were inspired by the Soviet Union. This is why these centers employed Marxist elements everywhere. When this was unveiled on 15 May, all these centers were destroyed. Some thought that they could regain their positions or shake the regime.

You have heard about the incidents which occurred in the universities from time to time in 1971, 1972 and 1973. As usual they tried to contact the foreign correspondents and tell them [things about] Egypt. Why? In my opinion it reached the point of treason, because anyone who levels accusations against his country or incites people against his country is a traitor, under any slogan.

The foreign correspondents--you have heard me say that early in 1973, after we had prepared the plan on the sand table at the general command and after our 6-hour session in February 1973 and after I had given Marshal Isma'il the order to get the armed forces ready and assign the tasks, and after the training had already started, these elements, through contacts with the foreign correspondents, filled the world with claims that there was going to be a military coup in Egypt, that there was no stability in Egypt, that Egypt would not fight and that Egypt was finished politically and militarily.

The whole world was full of such talk. So lest anybody stab you in the back, I took certain measures immediately. I referred the students to the Prosecution Department and I referred all the defeatist journalists to the Information Department. But I did not disrupt their livelihood, nor did I humiliate them, although what they did constituted a stab in the back of the armed forces. No, I said that we were all torn apart and that I would give them another chance. I set an example to stress that I am a father of this family before being a ruler.

We waged our war in 1973. In 1974 the only thing remaining unaccomplished was the freedom of the press. So I immediately lifted the press censorship after 40 years. It has now been 4 and 1/2 years. In 1974 I lifted the press censorship. Our democratic atmosphere then needed nothing else except to have multiparties or multiopinions instead of the one party and one opinion. So as soon as the battle was over and soon after I lifted the press censorship, I submitted the reform paper and I said that we needed opinion and counteropinion. There followed the discussions in the country which you all followed, and three platforms emerged.

We said: Let us start with three platforms. The platforms mean opinions--parties--in order that we may progress quietly and not be like Portugal, which entered into a whirlpool of disturbances. It tried to establish a democracy for 2 years but failed. The country was in turmoil. We want to establish democracy quietly because we are still in a battle, and we are also facing another battle which is more violent and fiercer than the battle of liberating the land. This is the battle of reconstruction.

In the midst of these conditions and of the terrible difficulties which we were experiencing as a result of the backwardness of the services and the utilities throughout the sixties, I came out at once with a development paper. You will recall that on the day the People's Assembly opened, I said: The three platforms which were established to contest the elections have carried out a complete party operation. Well, let us start the parties. Why are we wasting the country's time? You want parties, go ahead. Prepare a parties law.

The parties law was issued. It stipulated certain conditions for the sake of seriousness because, as you heard me saying, when we wanted to establish the platforms, we invited applications. We received 31 applications for the establishment of 31 platforms--31 parties. Such a process would have broken and shattered national unity.

There have never been such a large number of parties in any of the developing states. Such a thing would have destroyed national unity when we were facing two of the fiercest battles.

The formation of parties began. The so-called New Al-Wafd Party was formed. We were later surprised in the recent past [sentence left incomplete]. As you know, I made two tours last winter; that is the recent past. The first tour was to Al-Fayyam area, Bani Suwayf and Al-Jizah. This is the area close to us from upper Egypt. In the second tour I went from Hfalfa on our borders to the new valley. I inspected conditions there.

What is receiving my attention today? Does an article which a writer writes shamelessly bother me? No, not at all. Such talk does not bother me. What concerns me now is how will Egypt look in the year 2000, and how will our sons fare after us? How will the foundation be laid so that I may come out of the present bottleneck I find myself in, where, very simply, we are not producing the food we need but importing food from abroad. This is the ugliest thing which could happen in an agricultural society like ours.

If I could only tell you about what I have seen in the new valley, As-Sabaliyah here, 10 Ramadan City which I visited, the aluminium complex, the steel complex in the Al-Wahat, fertilizer factories in Alexandria, gas in Abu Qir, fertilizers in Al-Mansurah, gas in Abu Madi, and the cement factories which have been set up to double our cement production and triple it in 1980.

All this, my sons, is taking place every hour and every day, exactly as we want. There is a timetable. I am watching the execution of work and production. I have not time for some silly person who sits in Cairo and writes an article or says something. I have not time for such things.

There is a democratic atmosphere. However, I was surprised that there was a very strange thing happening in this democratic exercise. In the People's Assembly some deputies unashamedly started using abusive words for the first time. Outside the People's Assembly, the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party and the New Al-Wafd Party, the extreme left and the extreme right, agreed that the state has accomplished nothing at all, that all the state officials are thieves and that all the state officials are opportunists.

It is something strange. The two parties agreed to destroy things. In accordance with the law, the grouping party issued its newspaper without asking for permission. It is allowed to do so in accordance with the law.

Perhaps some of you remember and are aware of the era before 1952. Those engaged in politics at that time resorted to inneundos, casting doubt and the cheapest of methods for one purpose, to reach power. Sometimes they would enlist the help of the British against the king, and at other times they would enlist the king against the British. Everything was proceeding in this way. We put an end to all these things in 1952.

Why should the same thing happen today? Polical action nowadays is not an eloquent speech demanding independence like it used to be in the past and which could result in the violent death of the one who delivered it, as the parties used to say. This has ended. We expelled the colonialists. We expelled the king. We took our affairs in our own hands.

Independence or politics these days, as they are in the whole world, is the right to build the state and achieve prosperity for the broad base of the people, not for those who represent 1 percent of the people.

Before the revolution the 1 percent class was in control of all the wealth of the country. It ruled the country, the people and everything in the country. We the broad base--each one of us was doomed to live as his father lived. If his father was a poor peasant, he was doomed to grow up to be a poor peasant. If his father was a simple worker, he was doomed to grow up to become a simple worker. Everything was accomplished using money, and only the 1 percent class had money.

We carried out our revolution in 1952 and we changed all this. You heard me say that in my village there was no single educated person. Today there are engineers, doctors and university professors who come from every Egyptian village. Nobody these days asks you who your father is.

When I entered the war college in 1936, there was an official panel. It consisted of one of the English teachers named (Warner). The chairman of the panel was an official of the War Ministry. It also included the chief instructor of tactics, who was an Englishman. Two of its members were English and three were Egyptians. The application for admission to the war college included the following: Who is your father? I must tell them who my father is. What do you possess? The third question was: Who is your sponsor? This was officially printed in the application: Who is your sponsor? The panel's inspection was done as follows: A fellow would appear before the committee. The committee's secretary would say: This is the son of so and so and he works at such a place and possesses so much. His official sponsor is so and so. This is why, as you know, the whole state belonged to the 1 percent upper class.

The university did not produce graduates. There are many stories about scholarships which should have gone to the best students who were tricked out of them in order that the son of a minister, who hardly made the grade in his class, be sent on scholarship with the best in the class, while leaving out the second- and third-place students.

All of this is documented history. Any person who denies this today is a person to whom we must never show any mercy. We have ended all this and there are now equal opportunities for all. A person who enters the university, medical college, engineering college, war college or the police college is no longer asked: Who is your father and what does he do? If the student's health is good and his record is good, he will enter at once.

I was surprised to hear that the state of affairs which prevailed before the 23 July Revolution was very good. The leftists are angry with the 15 May Revolution, as I told you, because I exposed them. Why did I expose them? It is because the centers of power found nobody to seek their help other than the Marxists. Their position was exposed.

You must have read in the papers that one of the Marxists in Paris held a press conference and said that the 15 May Revolution is a suppressive revolution. He wanted to give the impression that freedoms have been suppressed, the detention camps have been reopened and the country is under martial law and special measures. What nonsense indeed. They are indeed abandoning reason and believe that the people will abandon theirs. However, I found that in practice the right and the left are cooperating.

This has been happening at a time when I was sitting down and thinking what would the new valley give me in terms of land and water resources. I brought experts from all parts of the world. You know me and you know that I carried out the October battle with you. I am now calculating everything connected with this valley. I brought specialists to tell me how much land and how much water I will have. How will the millions which will go there live? What roads, communications and modern agricultural technology are required? How can I make every person in Egypt realize his ambition? How can he realize his ambition of owning a house and a car and of owning land to cultivate?

I want to make more room because there are 40 million of us now living in this narrow valley. From 17 million we wake up and open our eyes to find that in this same narrow valley there are 40 million of us now. Therefore we must [have new horizons] so that we will not explode and so that our children will not have a bleak future. Why? Because on leaving college one has to wait and go through the so-called coordination and the manpower authority procedure and has to wait his turn.

Most of the university graduates are now without offices. The state is committed to the full appointment [of graduates], so they get appointed, but they remain without offices, and so they stay at home and cash their salaries, a lot of confusion. Well, I want to open the door wide to new societies. The land of the valley can no longer accommodate us. We can produce the food we need. We have enough good land to make us a foodstore for the world. We can do this by making studies and not by just talking and wishing. As I told you I (?discuss this with every expert) in this world. I am engaged in this operation and on top of all this there is the job of ruling.

We have returned to the old campaign of doubt. As in 1973 these spiteful people have (?used) the foreign correspondents who begin to write that there will be a military coup in Egypt any minute and that there is no stability. What is their aim this time? They want to undermine our stability because the Marxists are unhappy about the foreign investment and the open door policy that we introduced in order to provide a wide scope, and then there are the opportunists in the Al-Wafd Party or the old centers of power.

As I told you, I always look at all these people as mere air bubbles who represent nothing. This is why when I submitted the referendum paper I grouped them together because they are worth nothing, but their voice is loud. They contact foreign correspondents. They have reached the point of irresponsibility and abuse while living here safely and securely in Egypt, because here in Egypt no one can harm anyone. There is supremacy of law and there is democracy, and I will absolutely not allow a return to [special] measures, although I do have [the right to declare] martial law, and it is within my power to change everything with two lines. Never.

We have provided safety and security for the Egyptian citizen. The talents of the Egyptian people have begun to show up.

I want you to see what your brothers are doing in the new societies that have been set up.

The 10 Ramadan City is just behind you. Go and see it. Something fantastic has happened there in less than 1 year. I have come to you from there. This is the hope. This is the future--new societies, new towns, new land that will produce food for us and the world. We will not only eat food produced from this land, we will also build plants on it, fertilizer and cement plants and all types of industry.

They say there are no achievements. They are casting doubt. They have sent some people abroad. Why? As London was once the source of power, they believe that Moscow and some communists who are writing in Paris-based newspapers will make us be afraid.

We told a certain journalist: You are accused. Stay in Egypt until we complete our investigation of you. They say there is no longer any democracy. A foreign correspondent asked me about the case of this journalist.

Is there a democratic country in the world which allows someone who is under investigation to leave the country? They tell him: Stay until the investigation is finished.

You all know and the whole world knows that every man in Egypt is now free, no visa and nothing at all. Everybody can leave the country except when there is a case against him.

In the big democratic countries, they not only tell him not to leave, they tell him not to leave the town in which he is living until the investigation is finished. All types of democracy in the world are like this.

They like to present this picture of Egypt. I found out that we are about to go backward. The policy of the Marxists is to carry out a bloody and red coup similar to what happened on 18 and 19 January 1977. What remained for them to do on 18 and 19 January was to enter houses and start massacring people. The people would complain and a communist regime would take over. The people would not know that the Marxists were behind all this.

The other group, the Al-Wafd, wants to take us back to old concepts which have disappeared forever. It is a funny thing indeed.

It was necessary for me to do something. On the 15th of last month, on the anniversary of the 15 May corrective revolution, I presented the six points to the people. I asked the people to express their opinion regarding these three groups: the Marxists; the centers of power, who became corrupt after 23 July 1952; and those who were corrupt before 23 July. One of the six points also says that the people own the press.

I did not resort to any extraordinary measures. As I have told you, I could have resorted to national law. All that was needed was an order consisting of two lines, and everything would have been finished and there would have been no need for a referendum. But I did not do that and will never do it.

We adhere to the constitution and the supremacy of law. We will remain a society providing security and safety. However, [it is a different matter] when one chooses to attack his own country or when one is hired at 1,000 pounds a month [to slander his country] while living in Egypt enjoying all the security and safety as well as the goods, because he gets commodities subsidized by the state and at the same time receives 1,000 pounds for slandering Egypt. There are some in the Arab world who rejoice when Egypt is slandered. Libya, for example, has a group of Egyptian journalists. The group which was in Beirut, Lebanon, went to Paris when Lebanon was ruined. They are the same people. [There is] a group in London, and there is Iraq and the Iraqi radio.

Here in the country, they reached the point of imagining that they could just sit down and earn 1,000 pounds from abroad by slandering their country. So they sat down and wrote articles slandering their country. As of today and on the basis of the results of the referendum, I say no.

As far as the armed forces are concerned, I want to tell you my sons that the war minister is now in the United States. You know this. There is continuous contact. When he returns he will submit to me a plan for the development of all the branches of the armed forces. God willing, by 1980 fighter bombers will be produced here in Egypt. The first group of Jeeps will be produced in December this year. This is something new, for your information.

The air defense--this is an opportunity to salute the air defense men, as in the name of the people and your brothers in the armed forces I saluted the air force men who have managed to keep the MIG's in the air despite the fact that Russia stopped the supply of spare parts 3 years ago and wanted the planes to be grounded. Last October the MIG's were in the air.

We salute the men of the air force for this effort. I also seize this opportunity to salute the air defense men who have looked after their missiles. Russia said that we would not be able to do so and that the missiles would be finished. I bring you the good tiding that under the development plan, the rocket corps and the air force will be fully Westernized. Just as the fighter bomber will be produced here, so will the antiaircraft missile be produced here. All this is in the plan, electronic warfare, all branches of war [kull furu' al-harb], full planning.

When the war minister returns, God willing, I will meet with him and see what results have been achieved.

An important thing has happened. The question is not a question of 50 F-5E planes. What matters for me is neither their number nor their type. What matters is that so far the Russians have been imposing an embargo on us and the Americans have been unable to help us. The United States how now lifted the embargo.

Moreover, there is a decision to diversify the sources of weapons. There is England. There is France. All modern arms technology is available in Western Europe and the United States. The markets are open to us. Thank God that this is the case with the armed forces. My sons, you must maintain the standards you have attained and raise them higher as a precaution against any surprise.

As for the homefront, my sons, politics is no longer a slogan or an eloquent speech or a demonstration. Politics these days means that I want someone to tell me how to solve the problems of the people in transport, services and housing and what Egypt's future will be in the year 2000, when we will become 70 million people. We are now 40 million people and we would blow up were it not for the new societies which are being built.

I would like you very much to see the achievements that have been accomplished because they are close to you. Go and see these achievements. Before this year ends there will be several societies like the 10 October town in all parts of the republic. There is new land. There are new opportunities. There are new horizons which are open to every Egyptian in order to assert himself, live at a respectable level, achieve what he wants and give the state its due.

Concerning political action, they say that I have sabotaged democracy by holding the referendum. This is a real shame. Some of them, in order to earn 1,000 pounds per month, are cursing Egypt on the pages of the communist-controlled newspapers of Kuwait, Lebanon and Paris. Have I sabotaged democracy by telling the journalists that there are some Egyptian journalists who are publicly broadcasting daily from Baghdad and who have formed an Egyptian committee there? Iraq has given them a radio station so that they curse us and broadcast their names and resolutions.

When we inform the journalists association of this and take measures against these journalists, this is considered an attack on democracy. When we tell those who corrupted political life before 23 July 1952 that this is enough and live a dignified life, this is considered an attack on democracy.

The first requirement of democracy, my sons, is for the people to have an ethical commitment. Regrettably, there are some elements in Egypt which lack this commitment. The referendum in two words means ethical commitment. You who want to live in Egypt and practice politics anywhere: Commit yourself ethically to your land, the values of your land, aims of your country and your national issues, or else we will teach you how to commit yourself.

When irresponsibility reaches the extent that somebody will curse his country to earn money and have a certain standard of living while enjoying security and safety, we will tell this person: No, get out of our safe and tranquil society and go and live where you get your rewards from. This is the meaning of the referendum in simple words. It means that there will be no irresponsibility again and that there will never be truce with the Marxists who want to carry out a bloody revolution or those who want to return the country to the society of the 1 percent or with the centers of power which imagined at one time that everything was permissible for them.

There remains one point, my sons, which I will tell you about. We will remain in the bottleneck from now and until the end of 1980. We will continue to have shortages during some seasons but not all the time. We will continue to have communications and housing difficulties.

Look around you, sons, and see what is happening in 10 Ramadan City. See how the hopes are being realized and how the buildings are being constructed by the prefabricated houses factories. I was happy when the commander in chief and war minister told me that your prefabricated houses factories have begun production. Your housing position will be good in a couple of years. The position of the entire country will also be good because the quantities which will be produced this year and next year will meet many of the present needs. Three prefabricated houses factories will begin production soon. There are 11 other factories in the country which are in operation. I saw today entire buildings of prefabricated houses. Four stories are being constructed in a few days. The construction of four-story buildings of two apartments each is being completed in 3 or 4 days by the prefabricated houses factories.

I have seen people who want to build villas the ordinary way and not prefabricated houses. We have all these things. As long as we follow this course, we are not afraid of anything.

When I say we will be in a bottleneck until 1980, I mean two things--supply and housing. As I have told you, before 1980 all this will end because we are working according to plans and timetables. For example, by the end of this year we will stop importing fertilizers. We have been paying millions of pounds in order to import fertilizers every year. We will start exporting cement in 1979, God willing.

In 2 years cement production has increased from 3 million tons to 9 million tons. This is true. There are projects and there is work to be done on the land.

One of these projects is near you in Suez. The other project is in Turrah and will accomodate more than 1.5 million people. We have embarked on a course of production and work.

However, we will remain in a bottleneck for 2 more years, my sons, until 1980. During these 2 years I will solve the food problem. The housing problem will be eased. I will be getting $1 billion from the Suez Canal and another $1 billion from oil annually.

Today I saw the oil and gas fields which have been discovered in Sinai. I have sent memorandums to the United Nations and the United States. I am not nervous or anything of this sort. I will take everything back, God willing. I have taken before my oil which the Israelis were exploiting. God willing, I will also take the oil and gas which has been discovered.

The land, the opportunities, the open-door policy, the hopes--I have opened them wide to you, my sons, and to our future generations.

I do not brag when I say that our potentials are unlimited. However, we need one thing--work and sweat. This is what we are going to do in the coming stage. I will not allow any carelessness of the wrong practicing of democracy. I will not do this by reopening the detention camps or by adopting extraordinary measures, but I will do this within the supremacy of the law.

The whole people and the entire world know that there were no concealed or secret decisions or measures in the recent referendum. This will be the case in the future. Everything will be done in the open and we will face every person with what he does before all the people.

Thus, I end my speech, my sons. I have thus summed up our present position to you regarding the initiative and the democratic practice.

I implore my God that at my meeting with you next year, if my Lord gives me life until then, we will sit in this same hall to study our achievements.

One fact will always remain, my sons. This fact is that I will always remain proud of you, and your people will remain proud of you also. I will always remain indebted to you and so will your people and the whole of your Arab nation.

Maintain your magnificent combat standards. I am confident that you will excel further because the future, praise be to God, holds for us safety, struggle and victory. May God grant you success and peace be with you.

AS-SADAT MAKES SPEECH AT SUEZ CANAL UNIVERSITY

NC1015502 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1244 GMT 10 Jun 78 NC

[Speech by President Anwar as-Sadat to the staff and students of the Suez Canal University in Ismailia on 10 June--recorded]

[Text] In the name of God; the president of the university, brother members of the faculty, my sons and daughters the students: You have heard me say that I am always extremely happy and always will be extremely happy when I see smiles on the faces of the people of the canal, who have suffered four wars over a 30-year period. In the 1967 war they were evacuated, and time went by and they were away from their homes for such a long time that they began to grow weary. Some even began to lose hope of returning to their land, homes and neighborhoods.

I have said that it has always made me happy and it still makes me happy to see them smiling now that they have returned to their land, their homes and their quarters.

As I meet with you today, I feel abounding happiness which I cannot describe no matter how hard I try. I have memories of this place. In the early days we struggled against British imperialism, which had a base in this place, in this area, manned by 85,000 soldiers armed with the most advanced weapons of the time. At the time of our struggle against this imperialism, I found no safer place and no better refuge for me during that battle or during that period in my life than this place here among the people of the canal [applause] whom I know and who know me. The British never imagined that I would take refuge and residence here in the canal area. They looked for me everywhere else in the country. It never occurred to them that I was living here under the protection of my people, the inhabitants of the canal area.

When I rejoined the armed forces in 1950, God willed that I should return to this place, this very place where the university stands. Those who were with me when I laid the cornerstone in 1975 may recall that I spoke to them about the camp where I lived. I had thougnt that it would be outside the university grounds and therefore asked that it be included in the university grounds. However, looking at the blueprints I discovered that the spot where I lived in 1950 after rejoining the armed forces when we were making the final preparations for the revolution was, thank God, in the heart of the grounds of your university. That made me profoundly happy.

Another memorable thing. The canal university stands on the bank of the canal. The story of the canal is an epic in our long history. We recall that those who built it did so with the arms and sweat of our fathers and forefathers. Over 120,000 Egyptians died here as they dug the canal and as they worked under the severest conditions.

Today, you have come in order to get revenge for this country for everything that happened to your fathers and grandfathers here--to achieve faith, development, glory, consciousness and the principle that this sacred land is our own to live on as free people. You are also implementing the principle that by right, justice, good, love and democracy we are setting on this land an example for all the societies of the world after us, God willing. [applause]

You have heard me, my sons and daughters, speak in the past few days to your brothers, the members of the armed forces of the 2d Army here in Ismailia and of the 3d Army in Suez. Before that I visited Port Said to mark that day which was a day of sorrow when God willed it that your armed forces should carry out the most glorious and splendid battle in the history of modern warfare. These forces carried out that battle in order to turn the day of sorrow into a holiday and a day of victory for us and for the whole world. Ismailia recorded for itself a glorious day when it made 5 June a national holiday. Truly it is not a national holiday just for Ismailia, but for the whole republic.

Your armed forces crossed the Suez Canal from this place. The Suez Canal was known as the most complex water obstacle in the history of warfare. Your armed forces crossed from this place and from points all along the canal in order to tell the whole world that Egypt will not surrender its will at all, and that Egypt is able to master everything in this age and all the arts of war. From here comes your responsibility, my sons and daughters. You stand here a few steps from the canal, the stage of the most splendid struggle carried out by a people under the most difficult circumstances. [applause]

The October war was not a victory for your people only; it was a victory for the whole Arab nation, for the Egyptian man, for the Egyptian fighter and for the generations which will come after us in order for everyone to know that Egypt does not surrender its will at all [applause], and that Egypt will remain great and will hold its head high. Here comes your role, my sons and daughters: to continue what your brothers have started on the banks of this canal and across Sinai. Your role comes in education and faith.

The Alexandria University was the first to send its support on the morning of 23 July 1952. It was called the University of Faruq I. Faruq resided in Alexandria.

The Cairo University--I mean the Alexandria University--was the first to send us a congratulatory cable on the 23 July Revolution as stemming out of a pure popular will for the sake of Egypt.

My sons and daughters, I was very eager to come and visit you and meet with you today, to tell you that just as the Alexandria University was a first in that respect, you too are first, and you have a duty. You are first in that you have come here to this sacred land to build a beacon of knowledge on the very spot where camps of occupation once stood. It is also the same spot where your armed forces crossed the canal. On this spot you are erecting a lofty edifice of science, resistance, patriotism and good conduct.

You, my sons and daughters of the canal university, are the new symbol of the new will and the new generation, the generation of the great October. [applause] It is a generation that does not know defeat or surrender. It knows the meaning of the values of this land on which we grew and the sacredness of this soil which gave us life. It is a generation from which all the generations after us will learn. What we did in October and what you represent is a new will, a new edifice, a new power and new conduct in everything. It means faith in the almighty God, in what is right and in what is good. It is faith in love. All these values stemmed from this land and have preserved the genuine character and fortitude of Egypt throughout all the eras of foreign invasion.

My sons and daughters, just as the Alexandria University was the first to support the people's revolution, you are the October generation and the October pioneers. You are the vanguards of the new will. [applause] This is why I was eager to speak to you, and I want all the young people of the republic in all of our universities and on every one of our work sites on our good green land all along our valley to hear me. I want them to hear me as I give you this trust, the trust of the October generation. This generation has rejected defeat, surrender and pessimism and adheres to the ideals which we all grew up to believe in on this soil. It is a generation that knows no hesitation, believes in God and sees him in everything it does. It is a generation that holds the homeland sacred and knows no despair or suspicion.

You know, my daughters and sons, that before the 23 July Revolution we suffered from a loss of ideals and a collapse of values. We suffered when some imagined that this country had become their own farm. We suffered. God has taught us that if the Almighty "wants to destroy a population he sends a definite order to those among them who are given the good things of this life and yet transgress so that the word is proved true against them; then God destroys them utterly." [Koranic verse] They transgressed and they tried to bring to this land and people principles and ideas unrelated to the people's history or values.

They trampled on the dignity of man. The pre-23-July era--which they claimed was the era of liberties--was the era of detention camps. It was the era of rich people living in luxury who corrupted the country, the era when millions of us toiling people got no share at all from our land and had no future. The future then belonged to the minority of people who could pay the expenses. These were the features of tha era. More than two-thirds of the agricultural land was owned by the royal family and a few big landlords. We, the broad popular base, constituted more than 95 percent of the population but worked in the service of these people.

But Egypt rejected all this on the morning of 23 July. If anyone today tries to bring back that part of history, he must face the will of this people. Thewill of the people will not only stop him before he goes too far, but will crush him. We shall not go back at all. We will absolutely not go back to the eras in which the oppressive minority enjoyed everything in this country and the rich corrupted life and made us all suffer.

But Almighty God willed that this should be a new birth for our people and our will. Almighty God wanted to test us in everything we suffered, and we passed the test with the help and will of God. [applause] We passed the test with the help and will of God and passed the test through the performance of our brothers, the members of the armed forces. We passed the test, and now good, development, love and brotherhood again envelop this country. Whoever tries to take us away from brotherhood or love will not be allowed to remain among us at all. We will not permit his call to spread among us.

From here I entrust you, my sons and daughters, with this trust--the trust of the new October generation, the giant October generation, the October generation which knows how far it can go, the October generation which knows the values, the October generation which builds with love and not with hatred, builds with brotherhood and not with hatred, the October generation which does not know defeat at all, the October generation which surges to the broadest horizons.

I ask you to fulfill this trust and build yourselves from within. Build yourselves, my sons and daughters, because you are the vanguards of the new generation, the vanguards of the new dawn for our future generations. Build yourselves from within. Build yourselves on love, good and righteousness. Build yourselves with all the values which preserved this land since its creation and which will preserve this land, God willing, until doomsday. Build yourselves on these values.

God Almighty is right. The homeland is right. Good is right. Love is right. Build yourselves with faith that is not shaken by events or influenced by any catastrophes or misfortunes. Build yourselves from within.

My sons and daughters, I want to tell you about something I have learned. God Almighty created the angels and the devils. He also created man, Adam. God Almighty fashioned Adam and, addressing the angels, said: "When I have fashioned him (in due proportion) and breathed into him of my spirit, fall ye down in obeisance unto him. So the angels prostrated themselves, all of them together; not so Iblis." [Koranic verse]

In Genesis it is said that God Almighty created man in his image. Thus, man has been created in God's image. In each one of us there is a breath of God which came right from the time he breathed it into Adam.

Later, my sons and daughters, I learned that God Almighty created the angels, who had no desire, and created the devils, who were full of desire. He created man from both of them. Anyone who makes good and right triumph over his desire is better than the angels. Anyone who makes evil and rancor triumph over good is worse than the devils.

I wanted to tell you this, my sons and daughters, while you are building yourselves from within so that you will be aware that God Almighty has placed his spirit in each one of us. Guard it and be proud of it. God has given us brains so that we can differentiate between good and bad. When we make good triumph then we are better than the angels, and when we make evil triumph then we are more sinful than the devils.

My sons and daughters set an example for the October generation, for the October youth with your awareness and with your belief. Set an example with your awareness of God and with your awareness of what God had given man and of what God has endowed man with.

"We did indeed offer the trust to the heavens and the earth and the mountains; but they refused to undertake it, being afraid thereof; but man undertook it." [Koranic verse]

My sons and daughters, be the pioneering generation which builds with knowledge and faith. Be a generation that builds with a mind open to all the good, love and beauty that God Almighty wanted for us--beauty of dealings, beauty and ethics everywhere, in work and in meeting with people, and beauty of appreciating everything that God Almighty has created around us.

My sons and daughters, be the new example which looks into the creatures of heaven and earth and studies them. Be the new example in which each of you, sons and daughters, contemplates what God Almighty has willed for life so that it might be honest, clean and strong. This is what God has willed for us. [applause] Sons, be the generation of October.

Sons of the canal university, be the pioneers for the great October generation, which will leave the trust for the generations which will follow. You are here on the land of struggle, victory and pride. You are here on the land which suffered and then began to rebuild itself in a more magnificient manner. Be the example, sons. Be the pioneers for the October generation, sons and daughters, in order that we may establish our future generations on the values of this homeland in its values--love, fraternity, loyalty and everything which God Almighty wanted for the land.

We endured here on your land and passed the trial by which God Almighty wanted to test us. We passed the test. By our work, thinking and intentions, sons and daughters, be the example for the new October generation which knows only victory and which knows only how to hold its head high, making use of what is most modern in this age while preserving the heritage, traditions, values and faith. May God grant you success and God's peace and blessings be upon you.

PRESIDENT AS-SADAT INTERVIEWED BY BBC RADIO

LD091910Y London BBC Domestic Service in English 0930 GMT 9 Jun 78 LD

[Interview granted by Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat to BBC radio interviewer Jimmy Young at the president's summer house in Ismailia on 8 June--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Your Excellency, could I ask you first of all, since the beginning of your peace initiative toward the end of last year have you been at all disappointed at the reluctance of the Israeli leadership to respond perhaps in a more positive way?

[Answer] Well, there has been, for sure there has been, some kind of disappointment. But really, I must tell you this: We are still here in Ismailia. And I invited Mr Begin to meet with me here in Ismailia. When he asked about this settlements in northern Sinai to be kept there and to be guarded by the Israeli army, I was stunned, really, because it was just an insult. Because I have gone and visited him there in Jerusalem and then when he returns the visit according to our Arab traditions, well, instead of coming and returning the visit and doing his best to thank me for what I have done and jumped over all the centuries of heritage and bitterness and so, he comes and says: "I shall be keeping some of your land as settlements and guarded by the Israeli army." I took it really as a joke.

[Question] Do you think that you are being a shade optimistic in hoping that the Israelis would agree to withdraw to their pre-1967 borders? Do you think that is a possibility?

[Answer] They have no other possibility. There is no other possibility and either it is sooner or later. They must do this. This is a fact.

[Question] You recently suggested that Israel should return the West Bank to Jordan as an interim measure. And then the Jordanians, the Israelis and the Palestinians could negotiate a...

[Answer] And negotiate with Egypt.

[Question] Yes. Well, in saying that, though, aren't you in a way asking Israel to give up her territorial claims and then negotiate afterwards instead of the other way about, so to speak?

[Answer] Well, what is this logic? Is the West Bank part of Israel? No. It is not part of Israel. It belongs to the Palestinians and the inhabitants. In the Gaza Strip it is part also of the Palestinian land and it belongs to its inhabitants. Well, I'm not asking the Israelis any concessions. We are paying the concessions all the time, really.

[Question] Does solving the Palestinian problem then mean in effect that a Palestinian homeland has to be created?

[Answer] In my last proposal, really, you will remark that I have jumped over this like I have jumped by my initiative on centuries, as I told you, of bitterness. I jumped over this. I asked that the West Bank goes to Jordan like it was before 67. Gaza Strip goes to Egypt. For me myself...the Gaza Strip I am ready to sit with the Israelis and discuss the security issue and satisfy Israel. On the western Bank, King Husayn should sit with the Israelis also and satisfy them in the issue of the security.

[Question] What about Mr Begin's proposals for limited autonomy for the Arabs on the West Bank?

[Answer] Well, I have stated my opinion in that he thinks himself much more clever and wants to legalize the Israeli occupation to the Arab land. No. Sorry.

[Question] It would, though, would it not give the Arabs at any rate some measure of....

[Answer] Not at all, not at all. It is what this will reach to. No. I am sorry, it will mean legalizing the Israeli occupation. No.

[Question] How much faith do you have that the American Government may be able to persuade the Israelis to soften or to like change their position?

[Answer] Well, you remember after visit in last February I asked the Americans to act as a full partner, not as a cochairman of the Geneva conference--conference of superpowers in this world of today. I am convinced that whenever Carter chooses, really--and now he is not choosing to put pressure on Israel for the sake of--I mean nonassured future of sorts? [sentence as heard] No. Whenever he asks Israel now Carter will be saying this: The Arabs are ready to give you peace and security. Well, get out of the land. This is not it.

[Question] You mentioned King Husayn just now. How important do you think a part he could play in an Arab summit conference with Israel to resolve the differences in the Arab world?

[Answer] What is differences in the Arab world, my friend?

[Question] Well, there do appear to have been differences to an outsider, anyway.

[Answer] Exaggerated, very exaggerated. I have said it before. The situation we are in, we are in since before the October war, during the October war and after the October war--Libya, the same; Iraq, the same. The new element only is Mr Boumediene of Algeria and now he is trying to mend what he has done really. And what was called the rejection camp... It is exaggerated, really.

[Question] How hopeful are you that the peace campaigners in Israel will come to the fore and force Premier Begin to make some definite proposals?

[Answer] I beg your pardon?

[Question] The peace campaigners in Israel, the Peace Now Movement in Israel. How hopeful are you that they will put pressure on Mr Begin to come to some sort of a conclusion, an arrangement?

[Answer] Well, really I do not...I can't give the exact time of (?talks), but I can say this. Mr Begin and the Israeli Government could not continue to be isolated like that. When we say that we are ready to give you peace and security, but get out of our land, well, I think that everyone in the whole world recognizes this now.

[Question] If your present peace--efforts to achieve a peace--fail, and obviously one hopes they don't, but if they do, what option short of armed conflict have you got left?

[Answer] I have said really this will not be the end of the world if the whole thing fails. But there will effect and I must be frank in it. My initiative in last November visiting Jerusalem will never die. Every day it will survive more and more. And ask your British public opinion with whose ideals and support really, I am very proud. The initiative will never die, but the limits of the Israeli Government, that will die. Not the initiative itself. And I prefer to do, as you say when I learned English: Don't cross the bridge until you reach it. Right?

[Question] There have been reports, or people have said, that economic pressures within your own country persuaded you that peace was the only way to bring a higher standard of living to Egypt and its people. How true is that?

[Answer] Well, perhaps you have already heard me when I told about the...the Egyptian Security Council convening 5 days before the October war and I told them quite frankly that our economic position is below zero. This was printed since 5 years, 5 years now. Well, our will for peace really is genuine because we want peace for our future generations and for the reconstruction also. But it doesn't mean at all that this puts me in a position there or there.

[Question] Can I ask you about attacks on your government from within the country, from within Egypt? I mean you recently held a referendum on measures to be taken against the more, shall we say, vocal of your critics. I mean, does this conflict at all with your liberalized parliamentary system which you have created?

[Answer] A completely different thing. I was very furious really against radio London one day...when they...I mean took their share in the doubt campaign that is now that was waged by either the Marxists or the most extreme rightwing of those who were before the revolution of 23 July 1952. And I was very furious because I told them this: Either you convey to the British public opinion in G.B.--G.B., Great Britain, you know--in G.B. the real picture or not because I'm very keen they know the real picture. I'm not asking anyone to be on my side or to make...I mean...or to promote me. Not at all. I'm asking for the truth and nothing but the truth.

[Question] To some people outside it would seem, though, that you don't like criticisms too much, that you prefer to spite minorities undermining everything, casting doubts on achievements?

[Answer] Because they are exploiting the very tight economic position that we are in and the bottleneck that we are in which will take another 2.5 years because of the food problem, all the services really. All the services are really in a very bad shape and my people are suffering and then comes someone who is living in Cairo, and you say that they are my critics. I welcome my critics. I welcome anyone to criticize me, but they are not critics. They are haters, really. For that I was really furious against you people who contact them. Why don't you go and ask the man in the street instead of those haters who are living in the old quarter? And they cannot afford to stay without the luxury and some of them are really...as I said like Lord Haw-Haw...he is receiving money to attack Egypt in the same moment that he is living here under the protection and the dignity of the Egyptian that they gave him.

[Question] May I ask you about Egyptian journalists or writers? You call for them to place all the facts clearly and in objective manner before the people, but you have in fact threatened the press and journalists with prosecution. Do not the two ideals conflict at all, do you think?

[Answer] I beg your pardon, repeat this prosecution problem?

[Question] Well there are, we gather, five journalists who are on a blacklist.

[Answer] It is a group only of five in Cairo and there is a group in Iraq. They are broadcasting in a special broadcasting station against Egypt. There are also groups in Beirut, a group in Paris, a group in London, and a group in Libya. They are five groups. This is the first one.

[Question] But you do have journalists in this country whom you have forbidden to leave the country in fact, is that correct?

[Answer] Well, let me discuss this with you for Britain to (?leave). I shall ask you this. In England--and we consider England is the mother of democracy--if there is anyone who wants to be investigated and there is an investigation and someone needs to be asked in this, could he leave the country there?

[Question] Well, we do claim to have freedom of travel, it's true to say.

[Answer] No. If he is under investigation either in England, in America, in every democracy, he will not leave the country, even the town, before the investigation is ended. Well, this is not the order of the government, it is the order of the judge.

[Question] So the reports are in other words of oppression of political writers, are...

[Answer] I'm sorry to tell you this quite frankly and quote me this: Some of your journalists are friends to those journalists here. For that they send you correspondents to meet with them, take their views and take what I have given the example with--the man of the GUARDIAN, who printed three articles immediately before my initiative in which he said Egypt has collapsed; no hope. He has done the same thing early in '73 before the October war, and he has wrote those three articles to the GUARDIAN. Immediately since '73 he wrote another three articles to the New York TIMES saying that Egypt has collapsed 100 percent.

[Question] Well, the October war took place in the same year, immediately before my... Peace initiative...

[Answer] ...initiative and visiting Jerusalem, do you know what he wrote? He wrote that we are waiting a military coup from time to time, from any moment now. I was telling (?my army) this yesterday. Well, immediately the whole world was stunned when I started my visit, my initiative. Could anyone who feels any shake under his legs do such an enormous thing like this? Well, really I'm very sad because I have worked as a journalist sometime in my life, and at that time I said: when I sent him out--this man of the GUARDIAN--and they protested, and so I said: the GUARDIAN should have taken really real measures against him when he wrote two times and in the two times Egypt was in its utmost power.

[Question] I suppose in going back...

[Answer] Because he is going there to those journalists who are...who have their friends in England and taking their point of view as the point of view of Egypt.

[Question] Mr president, going back to the subject with which we commenced, could I ask you finally, if I may--your peace initiative, going back to that particular subject--how hopeful are you in your heart of hearts that peace can be obtained in the reasonably short term?

[Answer] Let me tell you then. I have always been frank. Excuse me because I was a bit sharp, I am fasting today. Every Thursday I fast, so I have no pipe, no tea, nothing at all, so excuse me. Well, I have said it before, I'm always optimistic by nature but after what I have found from the public opinion all over the world, and let me tell the public opinion in Great Britain, I'm proud of the support and the letters that I am receiving every day until this moment. Let me tell them that I shall never fail them and in the same time I shall continue to be optimistic also because I can feel it.

[Young] Mr president, thank you very very much.

[As-Sadat] Not at all.

FOREIGN MINISTER KAMIL COMMENTS ON PARIS TALKS

NC091305Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 9 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Paris, 9 June--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil met with French Foreign Minister Louis de Guiringaud here today. During the meeting he handed the French foreign minister a letter from President Anwar as-Sadat for French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing.

In a statement to MENA following the meeting, Foreign Minister Kamil said that he had briefed the French foreign minister on his recent contacts in New York with a number of foreign ministers who were attending the special UN General Assembly session on disarmament. Kamil also said that he had discussed with the French foreign minister the Mideast situation. Kamil added that there are continuous consultations between Egypt and France, a tradition which has been established by Presidents Giscard d'Estaing and As-Sadat.

Foreign Minister Kamil said that they had also discussed the situation in Africa in light of the attempts by some forces to infiltrate into the continent.

Foreign Minister Kamil said that he had explained to the French foreign minister Egypt's consistent stand on the efforts to establish a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East based on total withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate rights.

He added that we are going ahead with our sincere efforts for peace which must be established on these bases. However, he said, these efforts are being obstructed, and a grave situation is being created in the area by the Israeli Government's persistence in adopting sterile stands that are inconsistent with every principle of international law, with the UN resolutions and with the international consensus on the indispensable basis for building peace.

MENA has learned that President Valery Giscard d'Estaing was scheduled to receive Foreign Minister Kamil during his visit to France, but this has not materialized in view of the 3-day visit which the French president is currently paying to Corsica.

In his statement, Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil added that he affirmed to the French foreign minister that Egypt believes that the African problems must be solved within an African framework in a manner far removed from the policy of spheres of influence. At the same time, Egypt welcomes sincere efforts to help Africa overcome these problems.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil announced that he has expressed to the French minister Egypt's support for the role which France is playing in Africa in extending aid to the sisterly African states which are exposed to external aggressive attempts against these states' security and independence.

Asked about his contacts in New York, Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil said: My basic objective in New York was to affirm Egypt's interest--within the context of its nonalined policy--in disarmament and in the need to create the appropriate atmosphere for the efforts which are being exerted in this respect. He said these efforts are aimed at ending the unjust state of affairs and solving problems on the basis of justice and righteousness so that the developing states will no longer need to allocate a large part of their income to arms expenditure instead of channelling it to development programs.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil added: At the meetings of the special session on disarmament in New York and also at the meetings I had held, it was imperative for us to expose the cooperation existing between Israel and the government of South Africa in the domain of nuclear research for military purposes.

The Egyptian foreign minister said: I took the opportunity of my presence in New York to hold a series of meetings--outside the General Assembly session--with many foreign ministers. I got the impression that they are all highly appreciative of the efforts which President as-Sadat is exerting to achieve a just and overall peace in the area. I also realized that these states regret that the intransigent and rigid stances of the Israeli Government have so far hampered these efforts.

Asked about the results of his talks with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, the foreign minister said: I held extensive talks with Vance, during which we dealt with all angles of the Middle Ease situation. As is known, the United States has asked the Israeli Government a number of questions. The way the Israeli Government replies to these questions will be considered as nothing more than another test of Israel's readiness to go along with the peaceful efforts which the United States is exerting in its role as full partner.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil added: I confirmed to Mr Vance our well-known positions. He affirmed to me that the United States adheres to its position. This position is that the United States believes that the settlements are illegal; the United States does not accept Israeli Prime Minister Begin's interpretation of Security Council Resolution 242; and the United States supports the withdrawal from the occupied territories and the solution of the Palestinian problem, including the Palestinian people's right to determine their own future.

Kamil said: I have agreed with Mr Vance that we will stay in constant contact in order to exchange views on the upcoming contacts.

In answer to a question on the Arab situation and current efforts to restore Arab solidarity, Foreign Minister Kamil said that Egypt has clearly explained that it attached importance to Arab solidarity founded on clear and sound bases. Egypt has cooperated to the maximum with Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri in this direction.

Concluding his statement, Foreign Minister Kamil affirmed that Egypt believes that the efforts of the Sudanese president can achieve the positive results we aspire to if there are sincere intentions and if all live up to their responsibility to the objectives unanimously agreed upon by the Arab nation.

The Egyptian foreign minister is scheduled to leave Paris for Cairo tomorrow after heading Egypt's delegation to the special UN General Assembly session on disarmament in New York and after paying a 3-day visit to Paris.

Returns to Cairo

NC101735Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Jun 78 NC

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Ibrahim Kamil arrived back in Cairo this evening from a visit to France.

In a statement he made on arrival, the foreign minister said that his talks in France and the United States dealt with the Middle East, Africa and bilateral relations with the United States and France.

Commenting on yesterday's Israeli raid on Lebanon, Foreign Minister Kamil said that this raid gives rise to doubt as to Israel's real intentions. Although it fixed 13 June as the date for its withdrawal from Lebanon, he said, it has carried out this raid in this manner and without provocation.

Arrival Statement

NC101945Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil returned to Cairo this afternoon from Paris. In a statement to the radio correspondent, he said that he held talks with the French foreign minister on the Middle East question, Africa and bilateral relations. He added that, as far as the Middle East question is concerned, France is playing a pioneering and constructive role based on right and justice.

Foreign Minister Kamil said that the French foreign minister emphasized that his country will continue to play this role with the aim of promoting a just and comprehensive settlement.

As far as Africa is concerned, he said, the French foreign minister affirmed that France upholds the slogan of "Africa for the Africans" and backs certain African states to help them preserve their sovereignty and independence.

Foreign Minister Kamil said that he voiced Egypt's support for France's position, asserting that Egypt is against any intervention harmful to the territorial integrity and stability of the African states.

The foreign minister said that Egyptian-French relations are proceeding well within the context of the bases agreed upon by Presidents as-Sadat and Giscard d'Estaing during the French president's visit to Egypt in 1975.

Referring to his talks with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Kamil said that they were a part of the contacts between Egypt and the United States, which is playing the role of full partner. He added that Israel still has not answered the questions sent to it by the United States. He said that the future steps will be determined in light of the Israeli answers.

Foreign Minister Kamil also stated that, while in New York to attend the UN General Assembly meetings, he met with the foreign ministers of Yugoslavia, China, Holland, Portugal and Sri Lanka and discussed with them international relations, the Middle East and bilateral relations. These states, he said, expressed their appreciation of Egypt's efforts for peace and their willingness to help and extend support, and they realize that it is the Israeli side which is intransigent. He added: It is now clear who works for peace and who works against it.

Commenting on yesterday's Israeli raid on Lebanon, Kamil said this is a regrettable matter and it casts doubt on Israel's intentions. He added that Israel fixed 13 June as the date for its withdrawal from Lebanon and it promised several states that it would withdraw even before that date. It is incomprehensible, he said, that Israel should carry out such a raid in such a manner and without provocation.

Kamil will report to President as-Sadat on the results of his talks in the United States and France.

AL-JAMASI MEETS WITH CARTER, BRZEZINSKI

NC091652Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1634 GMT 9 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Washington, 9 June--Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of War and War Production Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi met with U.S. President Carter at the White House this morning. The meeting was restricted to the two men.

This meeting came immediately after Gen Muhammad al-Jamasi's meeting with Zbigniew Brzezinski, the U.S. President's adviser for national security, at the White House. This meeting was also attended by the Egyptian ambassador in Washington, Dr Ashraf Marwan. General al-Jamasi and Brzezinski reviewed the Middle East situation, the current situation in Africa and Egypt's role in the area. Brzezinski also explained to Gen Muhammad al-Jamasi the broad lines of the U.S. strategy in Africa and the Middle East.

The meeting of Carter and Gen Muhammad al-Jamasi came as a surprise, as it was not scheduled in the official itinerary. After his working session with General al-Jamasi, Brzezinksi surprised the general by saying: "President Carter would like to meet with you."

Discusses Results

NC092150Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2126 GMT 9 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Washington, 9 June--Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and War Minister Gen Muhammad al-Jamasi has stated that he and U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance discussed the Soviet activities in Africa and their effect on the other states in the area. He also said that the U.S. secretary of state explained to him the views of the United States on these activities, and he expressed his personal views.

In press statements following his discussions with Cyrus Vance, which lasted all day today, General al-Jamasi said that Egypt is worried about the Soviet activities in Africa, particularly in the Horn of Africa, because they could constitute a direct or indirect threat to Egypt. General al-Jamasi described his discussions with the U.S. secretary of state and other officials in Washington as useful.

General al-Jamasi said that Egypt is committed to help Zaire by providing technical aid. He explained that Egypt has no surplus forces to send to Zaire, but "we will help in certain ways."

General al-Jamasi stressed that President as-Sadat is a man of peace and that all the Egyptian people have supported President as-Sadat's peace initiative in Jerusalem. He added that President as-Sadat is working for peace with an open heart and mind and that he continues to march in the direction of peace.

The MENA correspondent has learned from reliable sources that General al-Jamasi's talks with the American officials have centered on means of guaranteeing the elements of reciprocal security in the peace-making process.

PRIME MINISTER SALIM ADDRESSES UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

NC081620Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Jun 78 NC

[Text] During his meeting today with the students of the Agricultural College at Alexandria University, Prime Minister Mamduh Salim said that political work is not merely slogans but its basic purpose is to serve the homeland and the citizens and assert freedom and sound democracy.

The prime minister added that the result of the recent popular referendum on the principles propounded by President Anwar as-Sadat confirms that the Egyptian people will protect sound democracy, despite the attempts made by some elements to take the country back. The prime minister said that 1.25 million pounds have been allocated for the plan to employ youths this summer.

He said that the plan includes the establishment of camps for land reclamation and serving society in all fields. Thus the youths will contribute to the achievement of the green revolution and food security. The plan will provide work for 374 youths.

Mamduh Salim added: We now have accurate scientific studies on the new land and the necessary resources to reclaim it as well as programs setting priorities for the reclamation of the various areas. He said that the graduates of agricultural colleges, institutes and schools and the old agriculturalists will play a major role in this by making use of their expertise in this field.

The meeting was attended by Agriculture Minister Dr Mahmud Dawud, who said that $77 million has been allocated this year for agricultural mechanization projects. The meeting was also attended by Minister of State for Administrative Development Dr 'Ali as-Silmi and Dean of the Agricultural College at Alexandria University Dr Khalid ash-Shadhili.

EGYPT DENIES SENDING WAR MATERIEL TO ZAIRE

PA091325Y Paris AFP in French 1146 GMT 9 Jun 78 PA

[Text] Yaounde, 9 Jun (AFP)--Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, said on Thursday afternoon in Yaounde that "no war materiel has been sent by Egypt to Zaire." Ghali had arrived a few hours earlier in the Cameroonian capital.

Ghali, who had just met with President Ahidjo, said that he had discussed with his host the forthcoming OAU summit meeting, scheduled to be held in Khartoum in July, and the policy of nonalinement. He submitted to the Cameroonian president the resolutions adopted by the Arab-African conference held recently in Niamey (Niger).

In answer to a question about the support given by Egypt to Zaire during the Shaba war, Ghali said: "No war materiel has been sent to Zaire. On the contrary, the Egyptian Government upholds the principle of inviolability of borders in Africa and also condemns all foreign intervention in an African state. [quotation marks as received]

Answering a question on the Middle East, Ghali said that his country is trying to achieve peace through negotiation. However, he added, if it is led into resorting to force, Egypt is ready to do so "according to the UN Charter provisions on legitimate defense."

Gahli arrived from Lagos (Nigeria) and is scheduled to leave Yaounde for Libreville (Gabon) on Saturday.

NATIONAL GROUPING PARTY DECIDES NOT TO DISSOLVE

JM111958Y Cairo DPA in Arabic 1912 GMT 11 Jun 78 JN

[Excerpt] Cairo, 11 June--The Egyptian National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party--the only leftist party in the country--decided today not to dissolve itself in the wake of the recent law issued by President as-Sadat empowering the government to act against its critics. The law came into force following the recent popular referendum which gave it sweeping support.

Former Minister of (?State) Yahya al-Jamal announced here today in the meeting of the Constituent Assembly of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party that the party had two options--either abide by the law or dissolve itself. Amid cheers from those who were present, Al-Jamal said that we have decided to keep the party within the limits of what is possible. He added: The merger of various units inside our party is more important for us than dissolving the party, and "what unites us is the product of a long struggle."

The National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party embraces leftists, Nasirites, Marxists and the so-called Enlightened Religious Party.

Al-Jamal also announced what he called two difficult decisions. The first is to stop publishing the party's weekly newspaper, AL-AHALI, which was confiscated twice, and the second is not to accept any new members in the party.

SOCIALIST PROSECUTOR INVESTIGATES AL-AHRAM EDITOR

NC111021Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0727 GMT 11 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 11 June--The Department of the Socialist Public Prosecutor yesterday began hearing the evidence of Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad, an editor of AL-AHRAM, in connection with articles attributed to him which jeopardize national unity and social peace. The investigation was attended by a representative of the journalists union and by five lawyers.

In today's edition, the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH reports that journalist Ahmad Hamrush has been summoned through our London embassy, which has replied that the journalist will soon be traveling to Cairo.

Today's AL-AKHBAR also reports that the socialist public prosecutor will today send a list of the names of those who corrupted political life before and after the 23 July Revolution to the competent quarters, as specified by the law, for the protection of the home front.

INVESTIGATION OF OLD POLITICIANS TO BEGIN 'SOON'

NC110758Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0719 GMT 11 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 11 June--The newspaper AT-TA'AWUN AS-SIYASI today reports that an investigation will begin soon into the activities of five old politicians to whom the law on national unity applies. This law concerns the corruption of political life prior to the July 1952 revolution.

The investigation will involve four members of the New Al-Wafd Party and one follower of Sa'd Zaghlul. The New Al-Wafd Party members are Fu'ad Saraj ad-Din, 'Abd al-Hamid 'Abd al-Haqq, 'Abd al-Fattah Hasan and Ibrahim Faraj. The Sa'd Zaghlul party member is Samih Musa.

ASSEMBLY AUTHORIZES PRESIDENT TO ISSUE DECREES

NC120747Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 11 Jun 78 NC

[Excerpts] The People's Assembly met this evening under Deputy Speaker Dr Sayyid 'Ali as-Sayyid. The assembly gave its final approval to the bill that amends some of the provisions of the agricultural land property taxes.

The assembly then approved a bill authorizing the president of the republic to issue legal decrees in the field of war production for a period of 2 years.

The assembly also approved a proposal to apply the journalists' wage scale to the employees of the MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY and the radio and television magazine.

The assembly resumes its meetings tomorrow morning.

ATH-THAWRAH SETS OUT BA'TH PARTY'S ROLE WITHIN FRONT

LD051330Y Baghdad ATH-THAWRAH in Arabic 28 May 78 pp 1, 7 LD

[Editorial entitled: "Political Action in the Armed Forces"]

[Excerpts] When the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party led the people's struggle and was able to deal a crushing blow to the forces of reaction and backwardness through exploding the 17-30 July 1968 Revolution this did not mean taking over power to enjoy fame and the pleasures of office. This is because the armed revolutionary uprising meant using the new position to lead the movement of the masses, speed up its advance, and, through the implementation of principles and charting policies reflecting them, reveal the socialist nationalist identity of the party and the historical role it is playing and shouldering within the Arab revolutionary movement.

The significance of this great revolutionary triumph and the drastic and comprehensive change it brought about does not lie only in the revolutionary progress and development it is aiming at on the regional level; rather, it is also--because of the national objectives it is seeking and the special revolutionary path it is forging for itself--lies in the fact that it fully and correctly reflects the new position, a position which is rightly the base for the liberation of the Arab nation. This goes to show that the revolution in its all-encompassing aspects is the revolution of the new path that is not willing to stop at certain boundaries or half way.

Going back a few years prior to the revolutionary triumph clearly brings back to mind those major problems that faced the nation. The most important and most serious of these was the problem of establishing a progressive front and determining its convention as a basis for joint national action and agreeing on the rules of internal action that would determine the rights and duties of the parties to the front in a clear and objective manner and on a basis guaranteeing to every party a position compatible with its size, resources and ability to influence the movement of the masses and in such a way as to confirm the leading and distinguished role of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party as the leader of the revolution and the vanguard of the masses that were able to crown their struggle with a historical triumph.

The true course that the party has pursued in this field reflects its views on the question of national alliance and the realization of a broad front or struggle in the service of the revolutionary movement and the people's aspirations. The pursuit of such a course has sought to define the convention and the conditions of front action so that such a definition would reflect the phased program agreed upon and clarify those conditions under which certain activities are permissible and others are not permissible. The point that must not be overlooked for a single minute is the question of giving any of the parties or forces making up the Progressive National and Nationalist Front, with the exception of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the right of political action in the armed forces, the strict adherence to this point, and the meting out of drastic punishment against the violators--namely to execute all those who commit idiotic actions in this regard.

On the basis of the above, the question that comes to mind here is: What sort of a front is the one existing in Iraq?

Without further introductions we would say that the present front in the country, as we see it, is one embracing progressive nationalist parties. It is--as we wanted it and still want it--a long-term front with its tasks covering a whole historical phase in the construction of Iraq on the central principles of the revolution in the national and pan-Arab fields. Therefore, the differences in the ideological interpretations between the parties to the front and the difference in organization should not allow two basic questions to be ignored:

First, that the revolution and its general principles are the umbrella under which we interpret things and are distinct from one another. Therefore, we do not use this distinction for the purpose of creating a direct capability or an "added reserve" by which every party to the front will make a "revolution" other than the existing one, and thus turn the front into a temporary coalition and enable the democratic atmosphere created by the revolution to be used as a means of killing the revolution and enabling the betraying party to take over rule alone.

Second, as we differ in our interpretations in the ideological, political, and organizational fields to which we have referred, we must act in the belief that the points of agreement on the course of the revolution by the parties to the front on the ideological, doctrinal and political levels are more important and carry a greater weight than the points of differences, and that the cohesion and interaction between the parties to the front must be matter-of-fact and realistic, and that as time goes by the points of difference will become less and the points of agreement, interaction, and harmony within the revolution will gain strength.

In stating facts, we want everybody to understand that the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party did not intend the front to be a temporary thing or to serve circumstantial needs but rather it wants it to cover a whole historical phase on the basis to which we have just referred.

Consequently, we do not think that the masses of our people want us to be "naive" to the point of entrusting our historical role to others or let the others imagine that we are so "gullible" as to let them steal this role from us.

The question of political action in the armed forces, the grasping of the revolution's views by the forces, and understanding the party's ideas toward them is a central issue that calls for two important things in this regard:

First, the realization of the firm attitude of the party and the revolution toward this basic issue requires all the other nationalist parties to respect and heed this attitude and avoid running counter to it one way or another.

Second, such full awareness and knowledge and correct understanding makes the outlook of these parties on this issue a sound one because they will thereby place this central issue within its true revolutionary course.

We as revolutionaries and strugglers never believed in isolating the armed forces from political action and depriving them from contributing substantially to the revolutionary process and to serving the cause of the people and the nation. It is an idea propagated by people with the mentality of rightist professional soldiers. Therefore we underlined the importance of the revolutinary building of the armed forces and the propagation of revolutionary and socialist values in their ranks.

In our view such an idea is not just a loose expression; it requires strict regulations. This is because for a socialist structure to stand on solid and firm ground it must be subject to central conditions that cannot be bypassed or ignored.

The desire to politicize the armed forces and to establish revolutionary relations within their ranks should in no way lead to exposing these forces to the risk of polarization between various parties, even if such parties were within the ranks of the Progressive National and Nationalist Front [PNNF].

The insistence on making political action in the armed forces the sole right of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party stems not only from the desire to avoid dividing the loyalties of this establishment among various political sides but also from the fact that the armed forces' loyalty to the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party alone is the safeguard for: first, preserving the unity of the armed forces; second, insuring the carrying out of their national and nationalist tasks in full and in the best manner; and, third, blocking the road in the face of the forces of revision and of elements hostile to the people and preventing them from infiltrating the ranks of the armed forces under the guise of loyalty to this or that party.

For all these reasons, the revolution and its command are careful to prevent any political side, including those party to the PNNF, from working inside the armed forces and determined in advance that there would be "no front in the armed forces," that the only legitimate political action allowed in their ranks would be by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and that the death sentence and the just revolutionary punishment be meted out to anyone who indulged in political action inside the armed forces, with the exception of the strugglers of the leader party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

This insistence, which we do not and will not relax, regardless of considerations, leads us to point out the matters to which we have just referred--that the armed forces belong to the people, are one of the most important revolutionary establishments, and the arm and the shield capable of protecting the revolution along other revolutionary tributaries under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The fact that the tasks of the armed forces are not restricted to purely military functions and that the revolution does not want their prerogatives to be confined only to carrying out their well-known conventional duties but, rather, should extend to the more general prerogative of serving the causes of the people, the nation, and the aims of the revolution, they--that is the armed forces--are supposed to comply with the will of the leader party, not only because the party is the owner of the revolution but also because the armed forces cannot be a field for political contests for achieving party gains and for the forming of blocs and counter-blocs.

Therefore, any political side that seeks to act inside the armed forces would be expressing an attitude hostile to the revolution and desiring trouble and estrangement in its relations with the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. Because we want the PNNF to continue to flourish and to have a broad strategic horizon, this being necessary for its continued growth in accordance with the basis to which we have just referred, this makes it incumbent upon all the parties to avoid the field of the armed forces in the matter of political action because any political action or activity other than by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party would only be understood as using the PNNF as a ladder to reaching power unilaterally through treachery by other parties to the front.

The revolution has come to stay and continue in accordance with its program under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and not of any other party or side. Whoever accepts relations with the revolution and the party as such will find us fully understanding and sincerely desirous of developing and deepening relations with him. He will also find us with an open mind ready to listen to what is good for Iraq and the Arab nation, just as we will have the right to make him hear what we believe to be correct and sincere. Without such concepts we cannot understand relations with anybody. We will be sorry if such relations become lukewarm or are broken but we will not be distressed because then we will not be the cause if any side wishes to persist in following the wrong course. Keeping silent over or accepting such a course would mean the loss of revolution and of sovereignty.

Our insistence on this line in principle and in practice does not involve any new policy of political change but rather it is a continuation of the revolution's policy in a sincere and accurate manner as known by all.

DPA SAYS IRAQI CP TO STAY IN IRAQI NATIONAL FRONT

NC0917555Y Cairo DPA in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 9 June--Informed sources in Baghdad said today that the Iraqi Communist Party will remain in the Iraqi National Front, together with the ruling Ba'th Party, at the urging of the Soviet Union. There has been speculation that the communists might leave the front following the execution of Iraqi communists who were condemned for plotting against the government.

A special Soviet envoy (Leon Minilivic), held discussions with the Iraqi Government on 1 June on the improvement of [Iraqi-Soviet] relations, which became tense as a result of the government's measures against the communists. The informed sources said that (Minilivic) stressed the Soviet Union's desire to maintain completely the friendship and cooperation agreement between the two countries. There have been rumors that this agreement might be abrogated.

A member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council said yesterday that 21 communists were executed in the past few weeks. In addition, a number of communists have been arrested. (Minilivic) has asked for their release.

INA CITES REPORTS ON SYRIAN, ISRAELI MEETING IN FRG

JN0909505Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 9 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 9 June--Western diplomatic reports coming to Beirut say that a meeting took place between Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Zionist enemy Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman in a city in the FRG. These reports say that a story of "visiting archeological areas" was fabricated by FRG officials to cover the Syrian minister during this meeting, which took place while rumors spread about Weizman's disappearance in Europe for 24 hours. These reports said further that Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu had effectively contributed to the preparation of this meeting through a letter conveyed by an unidentified close aide to Damascus last week.

The enemy radio earlier reported that Weizman had probably met with an Arab in one of the European capitals. The radio, however, did not disclose the identity of this man or give details of the meeting. However, the French newspaper L'AURORE confirmed in a report today the meeting between Khaddam and Weizman.

SAUDI MUNICIPAL, RURAL AFFAIRS MINISTER ARRIVES

JN101545Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Jun 78 JN

[Text] His Highness Prince Majid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of municipal and rural affairs in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, arrived in Amman this morning on a 4-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, he will meet with Prime Minister Mudar Badran and other Jordanian officials.

As-Shaykh Ibrahim as-Sultan, Saudi ambassador to Jordan, stated that the visit of Prince Majid comes within the framework of joint cooperation and coordination and an exchange of expertise between the two countries in the areas of construction and development. He added that the visit will achieve its objective, which is to benefit from Jordanian development projects as they relate to similar development projects in Saudi Arabia.

KING HUSAYN MAKES STATEMENT TO OFFICERS

JN111920Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Jun 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, has stressed that the area from Al-Yarmuk in the north to Aqaba in the south, the area of the beloved Arab land which we will all redeem with our blood, constitutes the main shield and last barrier standing in the face of Zionist ambitions in the Arab homeland. We are facing the challenges which confront all Arabs.

This was contained in a statement made to a number of senior officers of the army command at Husayn Youth City. He said: Circumstances over the past 30 years have taught us that Israel has not taken a single positive step. This precludes the establishment of peace in the area. For this reason, we must always be prepared. There must be no despair or weakness for the sake of the cause and the restoration of our legitimate rights.

In his statement, his majesty concentrated on the need to take care of the resources of our country. He said: The soundness of a citizen's loyalty rests on a sound education, proper rearing and care. The Jordanian man is our hope and the hope of the nation. We have planned for this. We believe that every citizen has a right to be informed of the services to be given him and where, when and at what level these services will be rendered.

On the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces, his majesty said: We have made great strides in preparing these forces, increasing their capabilities and raising the degree of their combat readiness. He said: There are certain gaps and deficiencies which we will do our utmost to rectify. We are holding contacts with our Arab brothers to insure that the requirements of our forces will continue to be met because the strength of the Arabs is our strength and their stability is our stability. Our duty is to continue to give and to be ready to defend the Arab land. We are part of the Arab homeland. We must live the Arab reality, because our march, suffering and fate are the same.

Concluding his statement, his majesty said: This land will remain Arab and steadfast, God willing. You are the epitome of this steadfastness, wherever you are.

The statement was made in the presence of His Excellency Staff Lt Gen ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the army and armed forces; the chief of staff and senior officers.

SIILASVUO, BUTRUS REPORT ON 9 JUNE MEETING

NC091546Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Jun 78 NC

[Text] The minister of foreign and expatriates affairs and defense, Fu'ad Butrus, met at his office at the Foreign Ministry today with the general coordinator of the UN emergency forces in the Middle East, General Siilasvuo. The army commander, the chief of the general staff, UNIFIL Commander General Erskine, UNIFIL Deputy Commander General Cuq and Siilasvuo's political adviser attended the meeting.

After the meeting, General Siilasvuo said: We discussed questions pertaining to the Israeli withdrawal from the remaining part of southern Lebanon next Tuesday, 13 June. We also discussed UNIFIL's role in that area. This is all I can say today.

Asked if the Israeli attack on the As-Sarafand area at dawn today will delay the Israeli withdrawal from the south, General Siilasvuo said: I do not think so.

Fu'ad Butrus, minister of foreign and expatriates affairs and defense, said: We discussed the measures and efforts pertaining to the situation in the south. We exchanged views and information and continued our work. Asked whether the As-Sarafand operation will delay the Israeli withdrawal, Butrus said: I do not think so. I do not have any specific information about the operation other than what has been reported by the news agencies.

AGREEMENT REACHED ON AREAS TO BE OCCUPIED BY LEBANESE ARMY, UN FORCES

NC091910Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Jun 78 NC

[Text] An expanded meeting was held at the Defense Ministry at noon today. It was attended on the Lebanese side by Army Commander Staff Brig Gen Victor Khuri, Chief of Staff Colonel Turbay and other officers. The meeting was attended on the UN side by the general coordinator of the UN emergency forces in the Middle East, General Siilasvuo, UNIFIL Commander General Erskine, General Cuq, Colonel Espinczi, (Mr Brito) and a number of UN officers.

Discussions at the 1-hour meeting centered on the measures that must be taken before Lebanese Army units are sent to the south. The areas which will be occupied by the Lebanese Army and the positions which will be occupied by the UN forces were established within the framework of an integrated coordination plan between the Lebanese and UN forces. Everyone who attended the meeting then went to the Foreign Ministry, where they completed their talks in the presence of the minister of foreign and expatriates affairs and defense, Fu'ad Butrus.

Minister Butrus today met with the French ambassador and the U.S. charge d'affaires. He discussed the general situation and bilateral relations with them.

AL-HUSS DISCUSSES SECURITY SITUATION WITH OFFICIALS

NC101142Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 10 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss continued his contacts at his office in the Information Ministry today in order to familiarize himself with the country's security situation. He met with Army Chief of Staff Col Munir Turbay for this reason.

Later, Prime Minister al-Huss contacted the commander of the Arab deterrent forces, Lt Col Sami al-Khatib, who briefed him on the latest developments in the security situation and the current preparations aimed at bolstering stability in all Lebanese areas.

The prime minister then held a 45-minute meeting with Phalangist leader Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil and reviewed with him the general situation in the light of new developments.

INA REPORTS ISRAELI SHELLING IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

JN111825Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 11 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 11 June--Several areas, including the hills surrounding An-Nabatiyah in southern Lebanon, are being exposed to Zionist-rightist shelling as of 1830 today. The joint forces are returning the fire. An INA correspondent in southern Lebanon reports that many fires have broken out in the areas which were exposed to what he describes as the most ferocious shelling in the area since the Zionists overran southern Lebanon. Enemy planes continue to fly over Tyre and Sidon. This major aggression comes 36 hours before the declared time of the Israeli withdrawal.

In a later dispatch, the INA correspondent in southern Lebanon said that the Zionist shelling of southern Lebanese villages stopped after it was confronted with return fire from the joint forces. The correspondent added that five soldiers from the joint forces were injured and that fires are still raging in the shelled area.

INA: ISRAELI GUNBOATS SEIZE, SEARCH LEBANESE VESSEL OFF SIDON

JN120832Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0746 GMT 12 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 12 June--Zionist enemy gunboats last evening seized a Lebanese commercial vessel carrying supplies off the Sidon coast in southern Lebanon. The INA correspondent in the south has reported that the enemy gunboats, which were on patrol around Sidon, directed the Lebanese vessel, anchored in Lebanese territorial waters, to the high seas where the enemy searched it and interrogated its captain and crew before releasing it.

The correspondent reports that the Zionist navy is besieging southern ports and searches all vessels arriving at these ports. The correspondent further states that the Zionist forces lit flares over all the axes in the western sector throughout last night.

VOICE OF LEBANON: PALESTINIANS ATTACK AL-HASSANIYAH

NC110653Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 11 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Al-Hassaniyah Village was attacked last night by armed Palestinians. Some armed men launched a surprise attack against the village, looted houses and attacked the village residents. Elie Hanna Ibrahim was seriously wounded and Habib Suhayya Nacula was slightly wounded. The residents of the village were awakened by the attack and chased the attackers, who were forced to leave the village early today.

DAMASCUS RADIO: AL-ASAD INTERVIEWED BY FINANCIAL TIMES

JN091500Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 9 Jun 78 JN

[Text of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's interview granted in Damascus to Alain Cass, chief editor of FOREIGN AFFAIRS, and Roger Matthews, the Middle East correspondent of the British FINANCIAL TIMES--read by announcer]

[Text] Question: Recently I had meetings with a number of senior officials in Cairo. As result of these meetings I now have the conviction that under no circumstances, even if there were a radical change in Israel's stand, would you join As-Sadat's initiative. Will you confirm to me that this opinion is correct?

Answer: We have made known our stand concerning this initiative. Our position is the result of an objective analysis of this initiative, its motives and aims. Our opinion has been and still is that is constitutes a hindrance to peace, despite the supporters of this undertaking saying that it is a step on the road to peace. It would be more correct for us to say it is a step on the road to war and not to peace. The bases from which our formulation was made are still the same. The passing days and the sequence of events have proved the correctness and soundness of these bases. That is why we do not find anything to justify our adopting another stand.

Question: Mr President, as far as you are concerned, should As-Sadat stop all bilateral contacts with Israel and publicly admit the failure of his undertaking before you agree to sit with him at the same table?

Answer: Under the shadow of the initiative, it is difficult for us to cooperate. The initiative is a failure, whether or not it is announced as such. We the Arabs know it is a failure. Israel knows it. So do the Americans, the Soviets, As-Sadat and you. What remains then?

Question: Mr President, do you not see any good in As-Sadat's Initiative? There is one thing. It did shorten a course which might have taken a long time. It exposed and bared Israel before the world as an intransigent state which does not want peace, or if it wants peace then it wants the land and peace?

Answer: I do not think an action such as As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem was needed in order for the world to discover the aggressive expansionist spirit prevailing in Israel. Israel drives people from their land and refuses to let them return. Israel is occupying the territories of independent Arab states, who are members of the United Nations, and refuses to withdraw from these territories. Israel adopts unification measures in Jerusalem, despite all the UN resolutions which forbid that. Israel refuses to implement the resolutions of the United Nations--I might as well say all the UN resolution--including the major resolutions which contain the broad outlines for an equitable solution under which a just peace can be achieved. Israel does all of this and perpetrates all these actions, which we could call rebellion against the will of the international community and world public opinion and the world decisions as represented in the UN resolutions.

Naturally, Israel needs provide no additional evidence to make the world and us see Israel's spirit of aggression and expansion. The entire world said Israel must withdraw to the 1967 borders. Britain, the originator of Resolution No 242, has announced since 1972, as I recall, that Israel must withdraw to the pre-1967 borders. Britain said this through its foreign secretary at that time.

I mention Britain in connection with the world's stand; the whole world affirmed the need for Israel to withdraw to the 1967 lines but Israel answered by saying that it will not withdraw. Is this not sufficient evidence that Israel is not for peace? Israel wants us to recognize its right to occupy our territories and calls this peace.

Going back to the beginning, I will say: Is it permissible to view As-Sadat's initiative only from this angle? I mean from the viewpoint that there is a certain quarter or group in this or that country, or in this or that continent, which considers the initiative as a step on the road to peace, from the angle that the initiative helped reveal Israel's stand? Should the initiative not be viewed in the first place from the standpoint of what it caused in the Arab homeland and among the people, how this will affect the advancement of the work for a just peace, then on its affect on world momentum toward the achievement of peace in the area, and on how it has weakened the international possibilities for the achievement of peace?

The eyes of the entire world were focused on Geneva and expected the various countries to exert great, concentrated, and collective efforts there, with the attendance of all parties. But now the efforts have been dispersed and the road being followed by those concerned in the Arab and international arena has become diversified, a matter which impedes work for peace. It comes to my mind here to ask: Would Winston Churchill have been considered a hero in Britain during the Second World War had he gone to Berlin to reach a reconciliation with Hitler? Such a question comes to my mind, despite the fact that what existed between Britain and Germany can in no way be compared with that which is between the Arabs and Israel, because the circumstances are completely different historically, politically and in all other aspects.

Question: Mr President, allow me to follow this subject with you a little further. To set the peace process in the Middle East in motion again but on more solid bases, taking into consideration that we are agreed that As-Sadat's initiative has failed absolutely, it seems to me the first step must be to restore Arab unity. There are many Arab heads of states who welcome the convening of an Arab summit conference. What are the obstacles in the way of holding an Arab summit conference and what is your view on how to clear such obstacles?

Answer: We had solidarity. As-Sadat personally violated this solidarity by going to Jerusalem. With the disappearance of this cause [of disruption], solidarity will be restored. We in Syria are for Arab solidarity. We have worked and we will continue to work for it. It is generally accepted that every effect has its cause, every matter has its bases. Therefore, I say that all causes that have disrupted this solidarity should be eliminated. I would like to stress that we care about Egypt just as we care about any precious part of our Arab homeland.

I would like to say that should we meet in a summit conference or anything similar while we are proceeding in two opposite directions, would the expected positive results be achieved? We want a complete Arab meeting and a real Arab solidarity. We also want successive summit conferences to be held, each conference to push the Arab undertaking a step forward. But there has to be a unified concept and agreement on common bases to enable us to achieve that.

Question: Mr president, let us suppose that As-Sadat sits down in Cairo and says that he will not back down from his initiative, that President Carter sits down in Washington and says he supports As-Sadat, that you sit down here and say As-Sadat must back down from his undertaking so that we may meet, and that Israel stays in the Golan, Lebanon, and the West Bank. What alternative do you propose? Does Syria have an alternative solution to propose, should As-Sadat decline to back down?

Answer: The picture your question presents must develop in the end, as a result of interaction among its parts, into another alternative picture which will constitute a basis for the coming solution. In other words, it would be contrary to the law of life for the picture presented by the question to remain absolutely unchanged. By means of interaction, this reality itself will develop into a new reality.

This does not mean that we are leaving things to procede by themselves. It is natural for us to move according to a formula which is proven by such cases. Anyhow, man always tries to steer the laws of life in his own interst.

Question: Is this issue related to the fall of As-Sadat?

Answer: This has nothing to do with the fall of As-Sadat or anything else. I am not to decide this issue. This concerns Egypt and its people and institutions. And since you have mentioned President Carter, I would like to say that, in light of the results of As-Sadat's initiative, I think that this initiative has weakened President Carter and prevented him from exerting effective efforts to achieve just peace in the region. I mean that the initiative has sapped Carter's ability to affect Israel.

Question: What is Your Excellency's opinion regarding the U.S. Zionist lobby's questioning of Begin about approval of the arms deal, which might not have a military significance but rather a political one?

Answer: My opinion is still the same because the issue is tied to the attitude of the Israeli Government. The Israeli Government had been facing extensive international pressure, including that of the United States of America. The As-Sadat visit gave Israel a respite. We all remember that Begin's assumption of power was met with worldwide condemnation. There was a stir in Britain and much talk against Begin.

Is the situation with regard to Begin now the same? Is the present world attitude toward the Israeli Government, toward Begin and toward his ministers the same as it was before Begin's assumption of power? Is the world reaction to Begin's government before As-Sadat's initiative the same as the world reaction after As-Sadat's initiative? Is the support of the Zionist lobby in the United States for Begin's government less than it was for former Israeli governments? Have former Israeli governments gotten more arms or more funds than those given to Begin? Have former Israeli prime ministers been received in the United States more cordially than has Begin?

I have no knowledge of any party taking place in the White House on another Israeli occasion like the one which took place on the 30th anniversary of the establishment of Israel. I cannot recall an arms deal between Israel and the United States similar to the one which has recently been concluded and which is likely to be expanded, as stated by U.S. officials.

These are the points which must be observed; we must not take a particular incident. Let me suppose, in agreement with some people, that such an incident has significance. I say that it signifies nothing meaningful. All that has happened was that Israel said you must divide up the arms deal, and the U.S. administration said: No, it will be one arms deal. Eventually, the United States backed down and accepted dividing up the deal but kept a form of moral connection between the divisions. Is this equal to Begin's great gains in the United States during his short term in office? All these gains were made after As-Sadat's visit.

Question: Israel has announced that it will withdraw from southern Lebanon on 13 June. We know as a result of your meeting with President Sarkis that Syria is now willing to assist Lebanon, through the Arab deterrent force, to insure stability in all of Lebanon, including the south. Is this correct?

Answer: The Syrian forces are now assisting the Lebanese Government in maintaining security in all of Lebanon, other than in the south. We have not decided that the Syrian forces should go to areas other than those in which they are deployed now. But what was discussed was the entry of the Lebanese Army into southern Lebanon. We have not been against the entry of this army in the past and cannot be against that now. We have stressed that we support the entry of the Lebanese Army into southern Lebanon. We believe that the entry of the Lebanese Army or any Arab force into southern Lebanon will be in the interest of the Lebanese Government and the Palestinians. In other words, it will be in the interest of both the Lebanese and the Palestinians.

Question: According to the judgment of many people, Mr President, the Lebanese Army is almost nonexistent. Is it not possible that the entry of the Lebanese Army into the south would be a great gamble if this entry is not accompanied by the entry of the Arab deterrent force?

Answer: The Lebanese Government has told us that it wants a Lebanese army to enter the south. We said: This is good; it there are situations concerning the Lebanese Army, then this is the responsibility of the authorities in Lebanon. There is no doubt, however, that the building of an army--any army--is not an easy process. I do not think that the Lebanese authorities can say that everything is proceeding well with the Lebanese Army.

Question: Mr President, we know that Syria's interests are closely linked with Lebanon's interests. If there is no effective Lebanese Army, and the Palestinians remain in the south, and if the mandate of the UN force is not clearly defined, will there not be danger of clashes, not only between the Palestinians and the Israelis but also between the Lebanese Army and the Palestinians? Is there no role for Syria to play in this respect?

Answer: We must strive to create an atmosphere of continuous understanding among all of us--Lebanese, Palestinians and Syrians. There is no better way. The Palestinians fully acknowledge Lebanon's right of sovereignty over all its territory. Therefore, the question is to find the right methods to pursue in this respect. Undoubtedly, there are some problems. A person here and a person there, or a group here and a group there may hold different views. But I am speaking about the responsible institutions, which constitute the real centers of authority.

Question: Do I understand that you are saying that there is no intention now to move the Syrian forces any further south beyond their present positions? Are you considering the possibility of sending the Syrian forces further south beyond their present positions; are you considering the possibility of sending the Syrian forces south to the Litani and beyond the Litani?

Answer: As I said, the Syrian forces will remain where they are now. But when the matter does not concern the possibility of Israel benefiting from moving forces one way or another, and when the matter concerns the sovereignty of Lebanon and increasing the effectiveness of the Palestinian revolution, then it will be possible to discuss anything at the appropriate time.

Question: Mr President, I would like to ask you a question on a number of matters which will occur in the near future related to the Israeli withdrawal on 13 June. As you well know, there exists in Israel a government which responds to issues emotionally. If no effective authority exists in southern Lebanon and if the United Nations forces are incapable of preventing the activity of the Palestinians on the borders in the south or from the sea, would there not be a risk of another such incident as the raid by the Palestinians on Tel Aviv--which caused Israel to invade southern Lebanon? Would not such a risk be great in your opinion? Can Syria remain silent concerning such a risk? Must you not take a decision now on such a matter as a move toward the south?

Answer: In the south there are the UN forces. The Litani is one thing and the south is something else. There is a distance of approximately 30 to 40 km between the Litani and the south. Do you mean to ask if our forces will move to the south where the UN forces are?

Question: I mean beyond the Litani. Who can prevent the Palestinians from launching raids against Israel, which give rise to retaliatory actions from Israel? The UN forces are not empowered to do this.

Answer: The question of our forces moving south of the Litani River has absolutely not even been discussed. Even if we go, could anybody expect us to protect Israel from fedayeen raids? Prevent the Palestinians from carrying out their just struggle to regain their rights? We believe that the Palestinians should have every opportunity to wage their struggle against Israel from any Arab land, without exception, until they regain their national rights. We in Syria cannot prevent them from waging this struggle. Despite this, the Palestinians have recently been saying that they will not carry out operations against Israel from the Lebanese territories. Evidence of this is that the recent operation was carried out from the sea. It may have been launched from Syria, or Gaza or from within the occupied territories. The latest operation inside the occupied territories--the operation on the bus--was executed from within the occupied territories, as the press noted. Would anyone in the world expect the Arabs to protect Israel at the time it is occupying their territories?

Even if we were to go into southern Lebanon, we would maintain our principled stand, because the Palestine cause is ours and Israel is the aggressor. Therefore, it is the right of all the Arabs, and the Palestinians in particular, to wage a continued and escalating struggle until a just peace is achieved in the area. What is required from the Arabs as states is to fight Israel. Therefore, how could we prevent the Palestinians from fighting Israel?

Question: To be effective, any army must have a solid political base. I have had the opportunity of talking with a number of Lebanese from the various communities. They believe that political reconciliation in Lebanon is still far away. Are you prepared to keep your forces, in large numbers, in Lebanon for another few years?

Answer: Naturally we have no desire for our forces to remain in Lebanon for a number of years. We hope that circumstances in Lebanon will allow our forces to return home. However, the situation is not that easy--to enable a Lebanese army to replace the Arab deterrent forces in a short period. In any case, we discuss the situation every 6 months, as is well known. We always take into consideration the difficult contingencies which would oblige us to remain there 1 year or more.

Question: Do you accept the presence of UN forces in southern Lebanon for an unlimited period of time?

Answer: We have no objection to that. We supported Resolution 425 and the presence of the UN forces.

Question: Let us suppose that As-Sadat carries out what he is charged with, namely, the signing of a separate agreement with Israel; and let us suppose that what Israel wants from Egypt is that it remain out of the conflict. Does this not leave Syria and the rest of the confrontation states very isolated? Does this not encourage Syria to work hard to find a new breakthrough, which perhaps might go in the direction of Iraq? And within this framework, could your excellency explain to me a problem which I have studied but could not understand? What is the problem with Iraq? Why cannot these two countries [Syria and Iraq]--which have much in common and which have a lot to gain from the establishment of an eastern front with Jordan--arrive at a (?strong) military and political connection?

Answer: Syria fears no isolation, now or in the future, as a result of its attitude toward Israel. The Arabs cannot support anyone unless he defends their rights and dignity and is in confrontation with Israeli expansion and aggression. Hence we cooperate with all our Arab brothers and extend our hand to all, without exception, with the aim of pooling all the Arab resources for the confrontation in the service of Arab aspirations and interests. If there are some who have not responded yet and who put themselves outside effective action, they are responsible for their own attitudes. In any case, from our viewpoint, the Arab differences remain small and secondary, even if they appear otherwise, whenever the issue is related to the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Question: One of the main international issues of late has been the East-West struggle in Africa. I know that Syria has traditionally supported the African freedom movements. This seems now to be opposed to Soviet aims with regard to the Mengistu regime in Ethiopia. Could you explain to us whether this is a source of dispute between you and the Soviet Union?

Answer: The question is not one of dispute. Of course we hope that all the countries in the world understand the true nature of the Eritrean cause. It is the cause of a people oppressed and downtrodden by Ethiopia. They began a revolution when they were forcibly annexed to Ethiopia. Our stand is firm and principled; it is with the Eritrean people in their struggle to achieve freedom and national identity. In any case, some viewpoints might not be the same on the Eritrean issue.

Question: May I ask whether you will continue supplying the Eritreans with arms?

Answer: Assuredly.

Question: Is there nothing which the Soviet Union might do or say to persuade you to stop this aid?

Answer: This issue has not been discussed between us. We have never discussed it.

Question: Mr President, you are now at the beginning of your second term of office. You assumed power in a country which has been known for instability. How much time will it take you, Mr President, to establish a stable base for a government in Syria?

Answer: To a great extent, we have taken big strides and important measures in the country, in the party and in the popular fields. These measures will help create a firm base for the stability and progress in the country. Our party has developed greatly as a result of these measures and has become larger and more cohesive. Our popular organizations, that is, the workers, the peasants, the youths, the students, the women and others have also become larger and more cohesive. These organizations now have greater roles to play. We have also strengthened the role of the popularly elected authorities. As is well known, we recently had elections to the People's Assembly. These elections were free and honest and the election campaign was fierce among the various blocs.

Since the corrective movement, the Assembly has been carrying out its full legislative powers and its right to supervise the work of the executive. Since the corrective movement, we have had councils of local government in the governorates. These are councils elected directly by the people. Every governorate has a council elected by the people in the governorate. This council performs the executive authority in the governorate and takes care of the affairs of the citizens in their own interests. The citizens in the governorate have the right to withdraw their confidence in the council at any time or to express their dissatisfaction with any member of the council whom they might find negligent in his duties. In the next stage, we will introduce in the elections representative bodies on a still lower level, namely, the level of the district and the subdistrict.

We also have a National Front composed of the parties in the country. This front also has branches in the governorates. Therefore, in every governorate we have an elected administrative council, leadership groups for all the popular organizations and the trade unions and we naturally have a command for the [Ba'th] Party branch in the governorate and a command for the National Front in the governorate. All these commands cooperate, naturally. For each there are definite and well known rights; they all cooperate in running government affairs.

We believe that in the past few years we have achieved wide-ranging democratic practice in our country and this is very important in insuring and preserving the freedom of the citizens and the progress of the country.

We have also defined the economic situation in the country. We now have a public sector, a private sector and a joint sector and we encourage and work for the development of these sectors.

Question: Mr President, one of the most important steps taken by Syria recently was permitting Western petroleum companies to come to Syria for oil prospecting. I have met with several representatives of these companies. Frankly, they are still haunted by the situation which prevailed in Syria before the corrective movement and they fear nationalization. They are perturbed by the possibility of Syria closing its economic doors once again. These companies are wondering--and this is something which does not concern just the petroleum companies, which we are only using as an example--if Syria will repeat the past; in other words, nationalize the properties of these companies following the discovery of oil and thus create restrictions preventing Western companies from coming and helping Syria to exploit its resources. Can you, Mr President, give some reassurance to the petroleum companies and other Western firms concerning Syria's intentions.

Answer: We are pursuing an economic policy which we firmly believe serves the interests of our country. Therefore, how can we change a policy which we firmly believe is serving the interests of our country? On the basis of this policy, the agreements we conclude with this or that company are not imposed on us. They are concluded as a result of a dialog between the competent authorities and technicians and out of the conviction that this agreement is in the interest of the country. There are no coercive agreements between us and any quarter, company or state, and we have not made any traditional concession agreements, as certain countries did in the past. We have agreements which guarantees the interests of the contracting sides or signatories. Therefore, it would not be sensible to undermine our own interests.

Furthermore, these agreements are not concluded by individuals. They have to go through a long process of discussion and are ratified by several quarters, headed by the elected representatives of the people. It is understood that in the case of oil agreements, in particular, these agreements are publicly debated in the People's Assembly. They are discussed fully. The decision is made after the studies and discussions.

More than that, in the case of these agreements, which are called contracts on services in the oil field, we have made it a point to have these agreements debated by the public and in the press. It is clear that the masses of our people support this policy and its results. Therefore, they are for these agreements. The citizens know that this is in their own interest. They are determined to carry out this policy. There should be no fear of going back on this policy in the future. Because if Syria goes back on its policy, it would be working against its own interests, and this is illogical. We in Syria are in need of benefitting from world expertise and investments. How can we be in need of something and yet reject it?

As you know, the general feeling in the past was that such agreements conflicted with national sovereignty and independence. Of course I believe this is no longer so; that is, the agreements we are concluding do not prejudice our national sovereignty and independence. The strengthening of the country's economy strengthens the country's independence and national sovereignty and not vice versa.

I would like to repeat that the policy we are pursuing was approved by the party's congresses at various levels up to the highest. It was approved by the party's highest leadership, the People's Assembly and the Council of Ministers. This is the most we can and must do, because a decision on this matter must be of a popular nature; that is, made by the people. This was what actually happened.

Question: Just one small question, Mr President. There is a general belief in the West that Israel has nuclear capability. Can you say that on this basis you would like Syria also to possess this capability, or nuclear power?

Answer: We have not yet considered this subject. On the other hand, if you want to know if we would be sorry in the future not to have a nuclear weapon, I say that we will not be sorry. However, no doubt when we find out that Israel possesses a nuclear weapon, the Arabs will have no choice but to possess this weapon. I do not think that it now is a great miracle to possess such a weapon. But up to now we have not exerted any effort in this direction.

INA QUOTES FRENCH PAPER ON REPRESSION IN SYRIA

JN102020Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1944 GMT 10 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Paris, 10 June--The evening edition of the newspaper LE MONDE published a dispatch today in which it notes that the Syrian regime has launched a widescale campaign of repression against nationalist elements. The campaign has been in force since 10 May.

The dispatch states that the campaign is directed against large sectors of the population, including leftist and progressive elements as well as other elements with no affiliation to any political organization. The campaign is also directed against the Palestinians. The French newspaper states that the campaign of repression in Syria is being carried out in a brutal manner and that the executioners in Syria can be as proud as their colleagues throughout the world for their sophisticated methods of torture. The paper adds that the chief of staff, Maj Hikmat ash-Shihabi, is personally conducting the torture sessions.

The paper described the atmosphere which prevailed in Syria following the assassination last March of Dr Ibrahim (Na'amah), a relative of Hafiz al-Asad. The paper further states that the Syrian authorities interrogated 15,000 persons in one week and arrested 200 of them, whose lives are now in danger. The paper concludes that the Syrian regime does not even trust its loyal partisans, as these are not escaping the repression.

AL-BA'TH: CIA MERCENARIES' BELIE U.S. ANTIRACISM

JN120750Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 12 Jun 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the title "The United States, the Two-Faced Country, Opposes Racist Regimes Publicly and Supports Them Secretly With Mercenaries," AL-BA'TH says: History gives many examples on the contradictory attitude of the U.S. Government toward its citizens who join foreign armies as mercenaries, contrary to the provisions of the federal law. This is what is actually happening now.

The declared U.S. position is against the racist regime in Rhodesia, but the reality is completely different. The U.S. Government connives to let its citizens serve as mercenaries in the forces of the racist regime in Rhodesia.

No one knows exactly how many Americans have fought as mercenaries throughout the world in the last 30 years, but indications are that they have been in the thousands. A large number of Americans have served in Angola, the Congo and Latin America. And there still are undisclosed places where American mercenaries have operated.

The brain behind all these operations is the ill-famed Central Intelligence Agency.

DEFENSE MINISTER MAKES STATEMENTS TO ARMY UNITS

JN111940Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 11 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--Under instructions from President Hafiz al-Asad, the commander in chief of the army and armed forces, Gen Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief and defense minister, paid a visit today to the northern area.

Talas spoke to the commanders of the units, schools and colleges in the area, conveying regards from struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad. He then explained the political circumstances through which the Arab nation is passing, particularly as-Sadat's capitulationist visit to occupied Jerusalem.

Talas said that confronting and foiling these plots can only be achieved by rallying around Syria and the leader of its march. He stressed that all Arabs support Syria, which is defending the Arab nation's rights and pride.

Talas spoke to the commanders of the units in the northern area of Syria's role in safeguarding fraternal Lebanon's security, unity and stability. He concluded his statement by stressing that Syria will remain a bastion of steadfastness and will continue to proceed with greater preparation and sacrifice until a definite victory is achieved for the Arab nation. General Talas was accorded a warm send-off.

GDR DELEGATION ENDS VISIT, LEAVES DAMASCUS

JN091553Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 9 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--The GDR delegation headed by Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers Guenther Kleiber concluded its official 5-day visit to Syria today. The delegation was seen off at the Damascus International Airport by Deputy Prime Minister Jamil Shayya.

In a statement to the journalists, Shayya praised the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two friendly countries and said: During this visit the FRG delegation was briefed on the current and future tasks the government is committed to accomplish in accordance with the national program set out in President Hafiz al-Asad's recent speech at the People's Assembly. Shayya added that the talks between the two sides were held in a friendly atmosphere which reflected the good relations between the two countries.

A joint statement is expected to be issued this evening.

Statement Issued

JN092010Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--A joint press statement was issued today on the results of the visit of GDR Deputy Premier Guenther Kleiber to Damascus and the talks held with officials in Syria. The following is a text of the statement:

The third session of the joint Syrian-GDR committee for economic, scientific and technical cooperation was held in Damascus from 4 to 9 June 1978. The GDR side was headed by Guenther Kleiber, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of general engineering, agricultural machinery and vehicle building. The Syrian side was headed by Jamil Shayya, deputy prime minister for economic affairs.

During his stay, Guenther Kleiber was received by President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the republic and secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. Guenther conveyed to the president a personal message from Erich Honecker, chairman of the GDR State Council and secretary general of the SED Central Committee. He also conveyed the sincere cordial greetings of Erich Honecker to the president and the party and government leaders in Syria. The greetings were reciprocated by President Hafiz al-Asad.

Kleiber was also received by the prime minister, Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi. Kleiber also met with a number of Syrian ministers and held cordial talks with them.

The joint talks were held in a cordial atmosphere reflecting the desire of both sides to develop the existing ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries in all fields in the interest of both countries and peoples. During these talks, the two sides exchanged information on social development in the two countries. The two sides exchanged viewpoints on issues of the common struggle against imperialism and Zionism. They agreed that the real interests of peoples call for the continuation of international relaxation to insure world peace and security.

The two sides paid special attention to the situation in the Middle East. The GDR side informed the Syrian side that the GDR people and government highly commend Syria's principled and steadfast stand against imperialist and racist Zionist plots against the Middle East question and the Palestine question. The GDR side referred to the eighth session of the SED Central Committee, which reaffirmed that the GDR will always support the just struggle of all nationalist and progressive forces in the area against Israel's continued aggressive policy and for achieving a just solution to the Middle East question.

The two sides condemned the Israeli aggression against Lebanon. They considered it part of the strategy of imperialism and Zionism to impose solutions on the Arabs in the interest of Israel and imperialism. They strongly demanded the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all Israeli forces from Lebanese territory. The two sides affirmed that a comprehensive just settlement in the Middle East can only be achieved through the complete withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the guaranteeing of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to set up their own independent state.

The two sides noted with satisfaction that the relations between the two countries in the economic field are developing positively and that progress in economic cooperation has been achieved since the second session of the joint Syrian-GDR economic, scientific and technical committee in April 1977 in Damascus. The two sides expressed their firm resolve to develop and strengthen economic relations in all fields on firm and continuous bases.

As an outcome of the talks, the following documents were signed:

An agreement on developing economic and technical cooperation between the two sides.

Arrangements to develop economic and industrial cooperation.

Minutes of the third session of the joint Syrian-GDR committee on economic, scientific and technical cooperation.

The approved documents call for an extensive expansion in economic cooperation, especially in the installation and construction of engineering, electricity, railroad, and agricultural machinery.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction over the signing of the documents and considered these documents as a major contribution toward the continued development of the cordial relations in all aspects and on firm and long-term bases between the GDR and the Syrian Arab Republic in the interest of the two peoples.

The fourth session of the joint Syrian-GDR economic, scientific and technical committee will be held in May 1979 in Berlin.

ALGERIA

APS DENIES REPORTED MASSACRE OF SAHARAN REFUGEES

LD101510Y Algiers APS in French 0900 GMT 10 Jun 78 LD

[Text] Algiers--For some time, to mask their discomfiture in the Western Sahara, the Moroccan and Mauritanian regimes have been bringing up the issue of so-called "massacres perpetrated in Algeria against Saharan refugees wishing to return to their country."

Bearing in mind the events which made most of the Saharan people refugees, and the way they were exploited after the Moroccan-Mauritanian invasion, the press organs which give credence to this kind of information cannot be serious. We know the information was thought up by propaganda writers in Rabat.

While it is normal for radio Tangiers to broadcast every night all these lies worthy of Goebbels ("the bigger a lie is, the better the chance of its acceptance"), it seems strange that the French Catholic daily LA CROIX should promote a policy of violence.

To become the echo of information which alleges that refugees were massacred while trying to return to their country is to ignore the very nature of the fraternal relations that exist between the Algerian and Saharan people, and the constant support which the former gives to the latter, in order to relieve thousands of Saharan refugees of their uncalled for misery. Furthermore, the LA CROIX reporter has come here to find out about the aid given daily by Algeria, the country he is accusing of massacres--aid which includes food, medicine, generators, etc.

One could, therefore, point out that Christian charity is not the appanage of those who talk the most about it. One can also say that since the Saharan refugees have been in Algeria--because they fled the massacres of the royal army--they have been visited by numerous foreign delegations, who do not always support the Saharan people's struggle to regain their usurped rights. Not one of the latter has, however, been able to find any animosity among the refugees toward the Algerian authorities. All the refugees expressed their deep desire to return to their homes, once their country has been delivered by the forces of the POLISARIO Front, which interpret their legitimate aspirations.

It is because of this understanding between the people and the POLISARIO that the Moroccan regime is today giving out the most dishonest information. The balance sheet drawn up in Rabat is made of dreams, but it will never be reality.

PDRY FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN ALGIERS FOR TALKS

LD111230Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 11 Jun 78 LD

[Excerpts] Salih Muti' Yafa'i, the PDRY foreign minister, arrived in Algiers this morning on a visit which will last a few days. In a statement made at the airport, Muti' pointed out that his visit to Algeria falls within the framework of the policy of consultations between the two countries in regard to the current situation in the Arab world. He said that he will also hold talks with President Houari Boumediene, president of the republic and the Council of the Revolution, on the conditions arising from the interference of the imperialist forces in Africa.

LIBYA

CELEBRATIONS MARK ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN EVACUATION

LD112326Y Tripoli JANA in English 1800 GMT 11 Jun 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, June 11, JANA--The Jamahiriyah's people experienced one of their most glorious days when they celebrated the evacuation of the American forces from their native land. Thousands of people took part in the large-scale celebrations organized this morning in 'Uqbah Bin Naf'i Airbase in Tripoli, which was the largest American base and had the name "Wheelus."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, Lt Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, the supreme commander of the armed forces; Staff-Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud; Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi; Yasir 'Arafat, the head of the Executive Committee of the PLO; leaders of the Palestinian resistance groups; diplomatic personnel in the Jamahiriyah; and popular delegations from friendly countries attended the celebrations.

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the secretary-general of the General People's Congress, delivered a speech at the opening of the celebrations in which he explained the disadvantages of the American bases. After Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's speech, formation flying by the long-distance planes took place which proved the capacity and efficiency of the Arab Libyan pilots.

The high commander of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, members of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress, their guests, chiefs of staff, and leaders of the armed forces watched the formation flying while crowds of people cheered and shouted slogans hailing the Al-Fatah Revolution and its leadership.

Units of the air forces flew past for an hour, after which the people inspected the fighter bomber planes stationed at 'Uqbah Bin Naf'i Airbase. The planes which took part in the formation flying were the MIG 21 and 23, the TU strategic plane, and the fighter planes Sokhoy and Mirage.

Al-Qadhdhafi Speech

LD111750Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1305 GMT 11 Jun 78 LD

[Speech by Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, secretary general of Libyan General People's Congress, at 'Uqbah Bin Naf'i Airbase on 11 June--recorded]

[Excerpts] I am pleased to congratulate you on this day as you celebrate 8 years since the expulsion of the American occupation forces from our land. This base, over which the green flag flies, until recently--in the prerevolutionary era--displayed the American flag, the flag of imperialism. This flag symbolizes the repression of peoples and the destruction of freedom in the land.

Before the revolution, which one of you could approach this area, even though it is Libyan territory? Who could enter this base? One day I personally came close to this area where we are now celebrating. At the time I was an officer in the Libyan Army. But as soon as I entered, the Americans surrounded me and said to me: Stop! You cannot pass! I said: I am a Libyan officer. They said: That is true, and it is for this reason that you are not allowed to pass. It is because you are a Libyan and not an American officer. This was the situation before the revolution and before we liberated our land from imperialism.

But, brothers, there were some Libyans who had the exclusive right to enter this place. They were the deputies and ministers of the defunct regime. They were the henchmen of the defunct monarchy who sold their country to imperialism.

You must understand that freedom has its price. However, as Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud once said: I am sorry that the evacuation was achieved without half of us being killed fighting for it. Half of us should have been killed before the Americans left so that we might appreciate the value of striking at the imperialist forces and the foreign troops and consequently appreciate the value of freedom. I consider this historical bad luck: to be able to evict the five American bases without a fight and also to evict the British base on Tobruk without a fight; this is a negative factor. If half of you had been killed in this land you are now standing on, then you would appreciate the value of this land.

I want to tell you one more thing: Before us we have planes which only the USSR and Libya possess. Before us we see long-range strategic bombers. They are extremely dangerous aircraft. Before us we have fighter planes, interceptors and all types of extremely sophisticated and extremely dangerous planes of various types which only the USSR possesses. These are only token units. They are only part of the hundreds of fighters, bombers and interceptors we have. They are only samples of the over 1,000 planes we have and about which I spoke.

As I said, freedom has its price. These planes need pilots. But should we consider those who smuggle their children out to London and who go to London during the month of Ramadan Libyans or Britons?

When the air academy asked for students to train as pilots in the air force, they began to smuggle their children out; some dressed them as girls and others dressed them as (?wolves) and smuggled them out to Germany, the United States and Britain. Should we bring them to account or not?

These people enriched themselves in Libya before the revolution and after it. But now they are smuggling their children out. They want to keep the planes grounded. These planes belong to you Libyans whether you have heard of them or not.

You can decide your own fate. The decision rests with the Libyan people through the people's congresses. These planes belong to you. If you want them to fly, let them fly. If you just want to display and watch them every year, then do so and put incense on them as you would on a sacred idol.

Today we greet those who volunteered, because up to now it has not been compulsory; the young men who volunteered have become pilots and now fly the most modern Eastern and Western aircraft. They are being flown by Libyans, sons of peasants and workers, sons of the good earth and loyal to this land. They are not flown by those who rob the land and live in other countries but by the sons of peasants, workers and toilers. These young men are the ones who volunteer every year and fill the air academy and they now fly hundreds of aircraft. However, there are hundreds of aircraft and more still need pilots.

Do you want to bring in mercenaries? Then we will draw up a budget for them and give half of it to the mercenaries [words indistinct]. There are mercenaries in the world ready to fly aircraft. You can decide this issue at popular conferences. You must make the decision. What is right and what is wrong is clear.

Our enemies know that we have aircraft; these aircraft have astonished them. They know how close they are to the Libyan aircraft; they know the Libyan pilot. They know the aircraft and they know our mighty air power. As for those who are afraid, those who may say [word indistinct] exploit it, those who may be exploited by this talk and those who say [word indistinct] exploit this talk, they do not interest us. They know and they have experienced our strength. They know our land, air and sea strength. However, what is lacking is that they rule in the place of their peoples and lead their people to the abyss. Because of their positions, interests and their hold on the presidency or the throne, they pursue a policy of stultifying their masses so that they can hold power for the longest possible time. They have sacrificed the interests of their peoples for their own benefit.

This is what we do not have. Here we speak openly and if we want to take a decision, it is for the Libyan people. We only help the masses take the decision and contribute with them to ascertaining what is right and what is unjust. I prefer not to say now that there are hundreds of aircraft here before us which require pilots. Yes, and they should know that there are hundreds of aircraft which can take off at any minute and their pilots are ready. However, I say we still need pilots. This place where Libyan aircraft are parked in front of you was the place for U.S. aircraft, and the Libyan soldiers who are now near the aircraft used to be Americans.

There used to be independence, but only through revolution was the Libyan soil really liberated. Therefore, even the occupied Arab land can be liberated only through revolution. Only revolution and the Arab regimes which reject unity confirm the saying that revolution is the road to unity. The Arab regimes which stand as an obstacle to social revolution for the liberation of the Arab man from exploitation confirm the saying that only through revolution can social justice be achieved in the Arab world and the entire world.

Every day the Arab regimes now prove that the road along which they are marching is a dead end road and that they are useless regimes of no use to the Arab nation. They prove that revolution is the only solution because those regimes are themselves speeding their own end by the attitudes and policies they adopt, which are hostile to unity, to the liberation of the Arab man and to the liberation of the Arab land.

Dear brothers, in this context I say to Yasir 'Arafat, leader of the Palestinian revolution who honors us this hour, and to the leaders of the Palestinian revolution--leader of the Democratic Front and the General Command and a representative of the Popular Front--that, as a Libyan individual, I say that the Libyan Air Force, the Libyan Navy and the Libyan land forces are at the disposal of the Palestinian people until liberation.

I say to them: There is no solution other than revolution and there is no revolution other than force. All attempts have completely failed and all the roads pursued by the policies of capitulation or even peaceful policies have led to a dead end. It has become clear to the Arab nation and the Palestinian people in particular, and the Palestinian revolution leaders even more particularly, that there is nothing other than force, other than weapons, for the liberation of Palestine inch by inch, and that the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah is the base for Arab liberation--it is the starting point. Dear brothers, it is our duty to place all our forces at the disposal of the Palestinian revolution and it is a revolution we will fight until victory.

Palestinian Delegations Arrive

LD102134Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 1915 GMT 10 Jun 78 LD

[Excerpts] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, arrived in Tripoli at noon today on a visit to the Jamahiriyah, during which he will attend the Libyan Arab people's celebrations of the anniversary of the U.S. evacuation from bases in Libya. A delegation of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, led by Brother Salah Salah, member of the front's Politburo, also arrived today to join the Libyan Arab people in their celebration of the evacuation of U.S. bases from Libya.

PLO'S ABU IYAD ARRIVES IN LIBYA 9 JUNE

LD092033Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Jun 78 LD

[Text] Brother Abu Iyad, one of the leaders of the PLO, arrived in Tripoli at noon today on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. In a statement at the airport, he praised the national and pan-Arab role played by the Great 1 September Revolution. He added that the current Arab situation requires the rallying of capabilities to face the imperialist-reactionary challenge that is trying to contain the Palestine revolution and the progressive regimes in the Arab homeland. Brother Abu Iyad reiterated that all plots aimed at the Palestine revolution and the progressive regimes will founder on the rock of the united forces of Arab revolution, of which the Jamahiriyah, led by Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, forms a principal pillar.

Holds Talks

LD102142Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 1915 GMT 10 Jun 78 LD

[Text] At noon today Brother al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi met with PLO Central Committee member Abu Iyad. Discussions covered numerous aspects of the Palestine question.

MOROCCO

OMANI FOREIGN MINISTER CALLS ON HASSAN, DELIVERS MESSAGE

LD091449Y Casablanca LE MATIN in French 2 Jun 78 p 1 LD

[Text] Fez, 1 June, MAP--On Thursday morning His Majesty Hassan II received Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Qais 'Abd al-Munim Zawawi, who is on an official visit to Morocco, at the Fez royal palace. During the audience the Omani diplomatic chief gave the king a personal message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus of Oman. When he arrived in Fez Wednesday, the minister stated that the message "relates to bilateral relations and possible means of extending and consolidating them."

SUDAN

PRESIDENT NUMAYRI ASSESSES RECENT TOUR OF ARAB STATES

LD092220Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 9 Jun 78 LD/EA

[Excerpts] Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, president of the republic, made a statement to the SUDAN NEWS AGENCY immediately after his arrival at Khartoum airport yesterday evening.

This was at the end of the second leg of his tour of Arab countries within the framework of his mission as chairman of the Arab Solidarity Committee.

His excellency said: This tour, which covered nine Arab states, confirmed what had been confirmed by the first tour, in which I visited six Arab states: The Arab nations are unanimous on the inevitability of Arab solidarity as the sole way out for the Arab nation--not for the sake of the fateful pan-Arab cause alone but also for the sake of confronting various challenges which are becoming interlocked and integrated to constitute the greatest danger faced by the Arab nation in its history. President Numayri added: The welcome and friendly reception accorded us in every Arab country, in addition to the backing and support [words indistinct] for fulfilling the aims of the Arab Solidarity Committee, are new proof that we (?in) the Arab nation are aware of the real dangers that face us, while we are convinced of the (?importance) of Arab solidarity as the sole weapon for confronting these dangers.

Thank God, I am optimistic about the results I achieved. The Arab Solidarity Committee will meet in Khartoum on 17 June under my chairmanship to evaluate the results I achieved and to discuss the next steps to fulfill the aims for whose achievement the committee was formed.

In reply to a question on whether the president will pay other visits to Arab countries, he said that this is not ruled out and that he will continue to exert his efforts by various ways and means to achieve Arab solidarity, on whose importance and fulfillment all the Arab kings and presidents he met agreed.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCES U.S. TO INCREASE AID TO SUDAN

LD102143Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 10 Jun 78 LD/EA

[Summary] Sayf ar-Rahman al-Bashir, leader of the Sudanese side on the U.S.-Sudanese Economic Council, has announced that the United States is to increase its aid to expand the assistance program and the special overseas investment organizations program, particularly in agricultural industrialization and its auxiliaries. He added that the Sudanese side has agreed to increase investment opportunities and to strengthen and widen Sudan's export markets.

TUNISIA

FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS

LD092102Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Jun 78 LD

[Text] French Foreign Minister Louis de Guiringaud arrived in Tunis this afternoon on a 2-day visit, during which he, along with Foreign Minister Mohamed Fitouri, will chair a meeting on the work of the Higher Tunisian-French Mixed Committee in its sixth annual session. The French foreign minister expressed satisfaction at being in Tunisia to lead the French delegation to this session, saying: This will be an occasion for the exchange of opinions with Mohamed Fitouri on matters concerning France and Tunisia, and it will be the confirmation once again of the excellent relations between the two countries.

PREPARATIONS FOR ANSWERING U.S. QUESTIONS REPORTED

Yadin Discusses Difficulties

TA091616Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1505 GMT 9 Jun 78 TA

[From the Weekly Newsreel]

[Text] The prime minister held two weekend meetings--one with the foreign minister and one with his deputy, Professor Yiga'el Yadin. The purpose of the meetings was to air the issues and coordinate positions on the deliberations to be conducted by the cabinet on Monday. These deliberations will comprise two parts: one dealing with substantive issues and the second with the formulation of resolutions. The desire to reach as wide a base of agreement as possible was noticeable in the deputy prime minister's remarks in Tel Aviv today. Sara Frankel reports on the remarks by Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin: [begin recording]

One cannot say with any certainty that today there is a formula acceptable to all cabinet ministers regarding the answers to be given to the Americans. The trend is to achieve such agreement and understanding and it appears that, despite the difficulties, things are being consolidated as Monday approaches. At the engineer's house Professor Yiga'el Yadin said that against the background of As-Sadat's threats attempts are being made to misrepresent the issues the cabinet will discuss. He believes the Egyptian threats should not be connected with the possibility of resuming negotiations. Those responsible for dealing with threats have antenna to independently examine the facts in the field and reach conclusions accordingly. On the other hand, there are other kinds of antennas and we must not forfeit even the slightest possibility of the negotiations being resumed. If there are negotiations there is hope, if not there is no hope.

[Yadin] This is the cardinal problem that the country and the cabinet face and have been facing since As-Sadat's visit. Now it is even more pressing because the negotiations are so complicated. Not only are they complicated between us and the Arab countries, but the element--that country which is our friend, that large and only friend, if I may say so--I would not say Israel's one great friend because Israel's single real friend is the Jewish people--we have no real friend in the world and we ought to know this and say this to the Jewish world and ourselves. [sentence as heard] However, among the nations of the world, the United States is our friend and things are so complicated that we have to conduct negotiations on the negotiations between ourselves and the United States. These are serious and sensitive problems. The problems we now face and which have to be resolved are mainly problems regarding the relations between ourselves and the United States. The aim is to achieve agreement, as far as is possible, between the United States and ourselves so that we are doing everything possible and are following the right path toward the possibility of renewing negotiations.

[Frankel] Professor Yadin expressed the hope that despite the problems, which are not making things any easier, we will give what the journalists call the answers to the Americans.

[Yadin] This is not an aim that must be achieved in its own rights at all costs, however, if it is possible to achieve an understanding with the United States, and it is possible--and I wish to give the benefit of the doubt to the opposing view that says that despite all of As-Sadat's talk there is a chance of negotiating with him--if we do this then perhaps the negotiations will be resumed. Until all hope is lost we have to do this for two reasons.

One is substantive: there is nothing we want more, which the people and the state need more than real peace, either now or in another 5 years--it does not matter when, as long as it is a peace with which we can live. We owe this to ourselves but we also owe this to the world and to our sons who go out and fight. All of us have to be convinced that if peace is not achieved it is not because of us but because the conditions submitted to us by the enemy are such that there is a national consensus opposing them. For these two reasons, we have to do everything all of the time. [end recording]

Knesset Members' Views

TA092050Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1825 GMT 9 Jun 78 TA

[Excerpts] On Monday the cabinet will formulate Israel's answer to the U.S. questions on the issue of the continuation of the negotiations with Egypt. Our correspondent Dan Raviv reviews recent moves toward the cabinet deliberations and hears the views of four Knesset members on how Israel should react. [begin videotape]

[Moshe Arens--Likud] I do not propose that we deviate from the line of attempting to achieve peace, to achieve a settlement. I think that we must follow direct negotiations. We are now in an almost absurd situation. The U.S. administration is trying to conduct negotiations on Egypt's behalf over an issue affecting the Jordanians. Nothing positive can come from this. We know that the U.S. administration finds itself under Arab pressure--the package deal on the aircraft is a manifestation of the submission to this pressure--so it is also clear that when the U.S. administration serves as mediator, in the long run it will always stand by the Arabs if there is a difference of opinion. What we have to say to the Americans is: Dear friends, please let us conduct the negotiations directly with Egypt on the issues affecting Egypt, with Jordan on the issues affecting Jordan.

[Amnon Rubinstein--DMC] I would give positive answers. I also think that from the DMC's point of view there is no problem here. We have always accepted the cabinet's autonomy plan as a temporary matter. We have said that this is a stage in implementing the basic concept of our platform--that the State of Israel must be a Jewish and democratic state with all the implications this has for the future of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza.

[Yehuda Ben-Me'ir--MAFDAL] Israel can answer if the U.S. questions are a matter of form. I think that this is a positive direction. The government has said that we are prepared to discuss with Egypt not only a declaration of principles but also Judaea and Samaria. There are people who ask why? As-Sadat is not a partner for deliberations on Judaea and Samaria. However, if this can advance the negotiations then I am in favor. If there is a desire to discuss things today that have not yet been discussed--everything connected to a willingness about a form of deliberations--we have to be flexible on this and make concessions.

As for substance, I repeat, as for the peace plan in essence I think that the majority of the people believe we have gone as far as we can with concessions. Many think we have gone too far and have taken significant risks with respect to our future. I think we must be guided by ourselves, by our truths, by our basic security requirements and we have to stand by this truth.

I do not think that As-Sadat's threats will influence us. I am disappointed by his threats of war--not so much by their substance, because I regard him as sufficiently intelligent to believe that his threats will not make us panic. He is not the first to threaten us. Greater men than he have threatened us. We stood up against them as we can against him. So what we need is a willingness on As-Sadat's part as well to enter negotiations and he must also make concessions to us on substantive issues. As for form, there are many possibilities. Everything has to be examined.

[Shim'on Peres--Alinement] We still have to make a clear distinction between the situation in Sinai and the situation in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. In Sinai we are talking about brass tacks--territory. In Judaea and Samaria we are talking about principles and today I wish to say explicitly: two basic answers which, in my opinion, do not endanger Israel and do not contradict its traditional policy would give us new wings for negotiations. The two answers are: With respect to the future of the territories in Judaea and Samaria--Resolution No 242--the formulation is vague. When we say Resolution No 242 we mean that we will not return to the 1967 borders and all of us are united in this, just as the Egyptians say that Resolution No 242 means a withdrawal from all territories, differences of opinion are permissable. As for self-determination of the Palestinians, today the United States also claims in the Aswan formula that the Palestinians have the right to participate in the determination of their future and this is acceptable to Washington, to Cairo, and in my opinion, it is also acceptable to Jerusalem. [end videotape]

TERRORISTS RETURN TO JORDAN AFTER ABORTIVE ATTACK

TA120723Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 12 Jun 78 TA

[Text] The search for the terrorist who tried to attack the moshav of Mehulla in the Jordan Valley this morning is over. They have returned to Jordan. The commander of the central command, Moshe Levi, told our correspondent Ya'aqov Peri'el that the terrorists' tracks were found and these show that they recrossed the Jordan River at roughly the same place as they had crossed into our side.

It is assumed that the terrorists intended to take control of one of the houses and take hostages. At about 0200 they crossed the fence of the moshav, opened fire with Kalashnikovs and threw handgrenades at one of the houses. The settlers woke up and within seconds caught the terrorists in a crossfire. One terrorists was killed and his colleagues fled. They left two Fatah flags on the gate of the moshav and a third flag was found on the dead terrorist. Four handgrenades, magazines for a Kalashnikov, a large canteen and civilian clothes, which were still wet, were found in his knapsack.

Our correspondent points out that at this moment life in the Jordan Valley is returning to normal.

GENERAL ERSKINE CRITICAL OF ISRAELI ATTITUDE

NC101500Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 10 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Israeli troops have been holding large areas of southern Lebanon to prevent terrorist infiltration ever since the attack on the civilian bus on the coastal road between Haifa and Tel Aviv.

Israel has already pulled back in southern Lebanon twice, and on Tuesday it is to leave it entirely.

On the eve of the withdrawal, Israel struck at a terrorist base, but none of those concerned--the U.S. State Department, Middle East UN Commander General Siilasvuo or the UNIFIL commander in southern Lebanon, General Erskine--believe it will affect the plan for Tuesday. But Erskine, in this interview with our reporter Alan Ben-'Ami, says that one of the problems concerning the withdrawal is that Israel intends to hand the area over to the Christian forces of Major Haddad rather than to UNIFIL. [begin recording]

[Erskine] I am very much disappointed. I enjoyed the maximum cooperation of the Israelis in the previous phases. On the 11th, on the 14th and on the 30th of April everything went very well. We were all very happy. Positions were handed over to us and, you know, little sort of informal ceremonies, which was all well and good. But cooperation is not there today and the Israelis just want to wash their hands off and hand the area over to the Christians--with their elected commanders--and we have been as.d to negotiate with them? The big question is in what capacity do we negotiate with them? We are trying to get a clarification from the Lebanese authorities. We were all in Lebanon this morning to meet the defense and foreign minister, Mr Butrus, and the army commander, General Khuri, and they are taking the necessary action to get the situation clarified. I am supposed to be back in Beirut again late this week to meet General Khuri to find what the results are. So until that is clarified, we don't know what the position is, but as it is now, it's not very good. I am optimistic, I am quite hopeful. But, you know, at the same time one should look at it from the worst point of view. If Lebanese authorities today are trying to get the situation a bit clarified, if it doesn't go well, then what do we do? If it doesn't go well, what do we do on the 13th? As the Israelis are saying: You know, we're off (?back to Israel); go and talk to them. O.K. if I get the instructions to talk to them I will talk to them, but if there is a hitch, if there are problems--whom do we turn to? And this is the biggest problem and I will personally hold Israel responsible.

[Question] What about the good fence arrangement which has been going on for something like 2 years now between Israel and the Lebanese, particularly those along the border. What is the attitude of the UN? What is the attitude of the UNIFIL toward the good fence arrangement following Israeli withdrawal?

[Answer] Well, this is much of a problem between.... It's a Lebanese problem and something to be sorted out between Lebanon and Israel. Whether the gates are going to remain open or not we won't know till about Tuesday, but you'll agree that the UN hasn't got the authority to shut the gates or to keep them open. It very much depends on the desires of the Lebanese authorities. But from the indications this morning, perhaps they will remain open till, you know a firm decision is taken.

[Question] What about the terrorists in the area, the Palestinians? There are reports of slow but escalating infiltration by the terrorists. Estimates that maybe already something like 150, 200 terrorists may already be behind UN lines. What is known to UNIFIL about terrorist infiltration at this stage?

[Answer] Well, we have a thin area. But I don't think the numbers are yet alarming. We know where they are. We've contained them, and there's still no problem. I think we are keeping strict observation over them. I don't think one should worry too much. It's very well under control. It's our mission to insure that armed elements don't come to the area, and where they come it's our duty to make sure that they leave and, so far, the negotiations--that policy of negotiation has been working very well and I hope, I suppose, in the interest of all the parties concerned will continue to negotiate as such.

[Question] You expressed satisfaction with UNIFIL's control of terrorist infiltration attempts in the south. What about north of the Litani, just outside your area--have you any indications of terrorist concentrations building up there now?

[Answer] Well I wouldn't use the word terrorists; I never used it. These are armed elements. So far as the activities are confined to the northern areas, which are outside of our responsibility. I don't think we are very much worried.

[Question] What about the situation at Beaufort--I understand that in the meeting with 'Arafat a few days ago he agreed to allow UN observers into Beaufort Castle, which is just across the Litani which overlooks the Christian enclave north of Metulla. Have UN observers managed to get into the Beaufort?

[Answer] Well, we haven't--rather unfortunately--we haven't managed to succeed yet. We've discussed this with Mr 'Arafat a couple of times, and I think he's trying--he's trying.

[Question] Doesn't it give you food for thought at all that the fact that you've been given promises by the head of the PLO, which up to now he hasn't been able to carry through and to let you get into Beaufort?

[Answer] There are so many elements involved. There are elements who are directly under his control, there are other elements outside his control. And those outside his control, perhaps, he may have to do some sort of coordination and talking to.

[Question] UNIFIL is about halfway through its 6-month mandate. At this stage, with the situation on the ground, with what you know, do you see a possibility that in fact, UNIFIL will wind up its mandate within 6 months, or do you think there may be a need for an extension?

[Answer] I think the point in time that UNIFIL may have to wind up is the time when Lebanese authority is fully established in the area. By that you and I should understand that that may take a little bit of time. I don't think Lebanese authority could be fully established until the Lebanese Army is, you know, fully deployed in the area in strength to maintain some peace and order. But that hasn't happened yet, so I think that may take a little bit of time. [end recording]

S. LEBANESE LEADERS APPEAL TO POSTPONE IDF WITHDRAWAL

TA101626Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 10 Jun 78 TA

[Text] Military and civilian leaders in southern Lebanon have sent a petition to Israel asking it to postpone the IDF withdrawal until a regular Lebanese Army is sent to the south. They said that the UN forces will be unable to defend them.

The leaders of local councils, mukhtars, teachers and Phalangist representatives met today with MK Amnon Lin and told him that there is a real danger that after the IDF evacuation they will be under heavy pressure to sever their economic and social ties with Israel and the terror organizations will exterminate those involved in defending their villages. The good fence will be closed and they will be obliged to go to Beirut, and in order to reach the capital they will have to coordinate their moves with the terrorists.

The Knesset member told them that most factions in the Knesset would not allow such a development and that Israel will not abandon the Christians. He intends to consult the defense minister and other elements to tell them about the complaints.

IDF SPOKESMAN DENIES CIVILIAN CASUALTIES IN RAID

TA091518Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Jun 78 TA

[Text] In the wake of reports, the IDF spokesman has reiterated that there were no casualties during the raid on Dahr al-Burj and that the base is not near any civilian settlement.

Our correspondent has learned from the spokesman's office that before the IDF left the area the bodies of eight terrorists were counted but there are probably more under the ruins.

RASTAKHIZ PARTY POLITICAL BUREAU MEMBERS ELECTED

LD101810Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 10 Jun 78 LD

[Excerpt] The first elections of the Political Bureau of the Rastakhiz Party were held today after intense rivalry between the candidates. The Executive Board's members elected 15 members to the Political Bureau during a meeting held today under Jamshid Amuzegar, prime minister and secretary general of the party, thus ending the candidates' intense and long rivalries.

After the meeting, the newly elected chairman of the Executive Board, Ahmad Qoreyshi, made a statement.

The following were elected members of the Political Bureau of the party: Sayyed Jalal Taqavi Larijani, Lotfollah Ra'isi, Seyyed Hoseyn Daha, Naser Yeganeh, Mohammad-Reza Vakil Gilani, Homa Zahedi, Mostafa Alamuti, Hasan-Ali Mohaqeqi, Hoseyn Tajadod, Abdolhadi Aqayan, Jafar Javadi, Senator Saffari, Hoseyn Qorbani-Nasab, Farrokhlaqa Baban, and Fereydun Mohammed-Vaziri.

The prime minister and secretary general of the party as well as the party's deputies were also present at today's meeting.

PARS, KCNA SIGN COOPERATION AGREEMENT IN DPRK

LD111128Y Teheran PARS in English 1004 GMT 11 Jun 78 LD

[Text] Pyong Yang, PANA (PARS News Agency)--A cooperation agreement was signed on Friday between PARS News Agency (PANA) and the KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY (KCNA) at the Cultural Hall of Pyong Yang, the capital of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea. Youri Laouri, the head of PANA's international department signed for the Iranian side and Kim Yang-si, the deputy head of KCNA, signed for Korea.

During his three-day stay in Korea, Laouri met Korean Vice-President Kang Yang-uk and visited cultural, educational, industrial and agricultural centres. He was the guest of honour at a reception given by KCNA head, Kim Son-gol, on Friday evening at which the new cooperation agreement was praised as marking a new era in relations between Iran and Korea.

NETHERLANDS NAVAL CHIEF ENDS VISIT TO IRAN

LD111126Y Teheran PARS in English 0959 GMT 11 Jun 78 LD

[Text] Teheran, PANA (PARS News Agency)--Admiral B. Veldkamp, commander-in-chief of the Royal Netherlands Navy and chief of the Netherlands naval staff and his wife concluded their visit to Iran and returned to the Netherlands today. They came to Iran at the invitation of the Imperial Iranian Navy.

During his stay, Admiral Veldkamp was received by His Imperial Majesty the shahanshah aryamehr and visited Imperial Iranian naval bases in Bandar-e Pahlavi and Bandar 'Abbas. He also visited historical monuments in Isfahan and Shiraz.

BAHRAINI AMIR ARRIVES IN TEHERAN, MET BY SHAH

LD101546Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1400 GMT 10 Jun 78 LD

[Summary] Shaykh 'Isa Ibn Salman al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, has just arrived at Teheran's Mehrabad Airport. He was welcomed by the shah and given the full ceremonial welcome normally accorded to a head of state.

TRADE MINISTRY WARNS AGAINST SMUGGLING

LDT100857Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 1 Jun 78 LD

[Statement issued by the Afghan Ministry of Trade--date not given]

[Text] Merchants who utilized the bureaucracy of the past negligent regime and who illegally supplied their goods to the market without paying customs duties are hereby notified that, henceforth, anyone attempting to forge [word indistinct], invoices and other methods of avoiding government duties will be subjected to the closest scrutiny and control. Should the forgeries and misappropriations come to light, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, in order to protect the interests of the people of the country, will act decisively in accordance with the principles of the revolution.

GOVERNMENT ISSUES STATEMENT ON HANDLING OF COMPLAINTS

LDT091257Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 May 78 LD

[Statement issued by the "Bureau Directorate" of the Revolutionary Council of Afghanistan--date not given]

[Text] In accordance with Articles 8 and 23 of the main guidelines of the revolutionary tasks of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, the formation of a healthy and democratic government administration to serve the people and aid the adoption of effective measures to eliminate all forms of oppression and injustice, graft and redtape are among the tasks of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

In this connection, compatriots are notified that since the foundations of the unjust government apparatus and administration of the undemocratic and unpopular Zaheri and Daudi regimes have been demolished following the victory of the Sowr revolution, all petitioners and plaintiffs in the capital and the provinces, before having recourse to the Presidential Bureau of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, can confidently present their petitions and complaints to the relevant government administrative units, whether in subdistrict offices, district offices, provinces or ministries.

The exhaustive study and just solution of people's petitions and complaints constitute the duties of the units of state and government administration.

Of course, in circumstances when a lawful and principled reaction to the petitions and complaints of the compatriots is not forthcoming from this or that administrative unit and petitioners and plaintiffs consider themselves justified in accordance with law and justice, they may have recourse to the Petitions Section of the Bureau of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Nevertheless, all applicants, petitioners and plaintiffs are strongly advised to abstain from petitions and complaints that run counter to the principles of justice and law, from instituting impractical litigations and entertaining impractical expectations and from engaging in bribery. Otherwise, they may be brought to justice in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

BANGLADESH

DELEGATION RETURNS FROM BURMA REFUGEE TALKS

BK101726Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 10 Jun 78 BK

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr Tabarak Hussein, returned to Dacca this afternoon from Rangoon after leading a 10-member Bangladesh delegation at the 3-day talks on the influx of refugees from Burma and other related issues. Talking to newsmen at the airport, he said both sides have agreed to continue negotiation, and a Burmese delegation is expected to visit Bangladesh in the near future.

The foreign secretary said they had extremely useful exchange of information and views with the Burmese leaders.

About his meeting with the Burmese president in Rangoon this morning, he said Gen Ne Win emphasized the need for finding an amicable settlement of the problem and reiterated his desire to live with Bangladesh as a good neighbor.

SAUDI ENVOY CALLS FOR SOLUTION OF BURMESE REFUGEE ISSUE

BK101621Y Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Jun 78 BK

[Text] The Saudi ambassador in Bangladesh, Shaykh Fa'ud Abdul Hamid al-Khatib, has called upon the world community to exert their influence to solve the Burmese refugee problem.

Talking to BSS [BANGLADESH SANGBAD SANGSTHA] in Cox's Bazar after visiting some refugee camps yesterday, he described the condition of the refugees as pitiable.

He said that the Burmese Government should realize that the world community is not happy over the inhuman action on the ethnic minority. The minorities of any country have equal rights and privileges as those of the majority and this is what the Burmese Government is denying to its Moslem minority.

The ambassador said the entire Moslem world has shown sympathy toward the Burmese refugees. He said a solution to this problem must be found out and the world community should help create congenial conditions for the evictees to return to their home.

ZIA SWORN IN AS PRESIDENT AT 12 JUNE CEREMONY

BK120744Y Dacca Overseas Service in English 0445 GMT 12 Jun 78 BK

[Text] Maj Gen Ziaur Rahman was sworn in as the president of Bangladesh at an impressive ceremony at Banga Bhavan this morning. The oath of office was administered by the chief justice of Bangladesh, Mr Justice Jamaluddin Hussain.

President Zia is the first president of the country ever elected on the basis of direct adult franchise. The citation order read out on the occasion by the cabinet secretary said Gen Ziaur Rahman was being inducted into the office of the president in accordance with the GAZETTE notification of June the 10th which officially declared him elected in the recently concluded elections.

PLANNING OFFICIAL SATISFIED WITH CONSORTIUM AID

BK111614Y Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Jun 78 BK

[Text] The presidential adviser for planning, Dr M.N. Huda, has said the member countries of the Bangladesh Aid Consortium have pledged a total of $1.25 billion for 1978-79. The adviser, who returned to Dacca today after the aid group meeting in Paris, told newsmen that out of the total commitment, food aid will account for almost $200 million, commodity aid $450 million and project aid $600 million. He said about half of the total amount has already been committed while the rest will have to be firmed up in course of the next 2 months. He said the donors have also agreed to firm up the commitments as early as possible. Dr Huda said a little over two-thirds of this year's aid commitment will be in the form of grants as against less than half so far. This, he said, is a new development demonstrating a better and deeper understanding of our problems by the donors.

The adviser said the consortium meeting this time has been a better success than any in the previous years. There has been almost complete agreement between us and the donors on our planning strategy, development priorities and our economic policy. The result of the meeting has been highly satisfactory from our point of view and from the point view of the donor, since our aid requirements and requests for 1978-79 have been fully and adequately met.

Dr Huda told newsmen that the donor countries have expressed their concern over the influx of Burmese refugees in Bangladesh. Some of them have already responded to the UN secretary general's appeal for relief for the refugees. He said they were anxious to insure that this refugee problem does not adversely affect our development efforts. The relief given by them is outside the development aid.

DACCA RADIO AIRS COMMUNIST LEADER'S VIEWS

BK120746Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 12 Jun 78 BK

[Text] The chief of the Samyabadi Dal [communist party], Marxist-Leninist, Mr Mohammad Toha, has called for unity of all patriotic and democratic forces to defend the country's independence and sovereignty. Addressing a public meeting at Baitul Mukkaram yesterday, he said this is necessary in view of internal and international conspiracy. Mr Toha demanded restoration of people's democratic rights and release of political prisoners.

INDIA

TIMES OF INDIA VIEWS BANGLADESH ELECTION RESULT

BK091047Y Bombay TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Jun 78 p 8 BK

[Editorial: "Massive Win"]

[Text] Major General Ziaur Rahman has won the presidential election in Bangladesh with a majority which exceeds the most optimistic estimates on his behalf. This should augur well for Bangladesh provided that he has won by reasonably fair means. To enter this caveat is not to accept the charge by his opponents that the election has been rigged on a massive scale and that General Zia has secured an impressive majority by resorting to unfair practices--stuffing of the ballot boxes and scaring away from the polling booths of the supporters and "scrutineers" of the Ganotantrik Oikke Joti which backed the defeated candidate, General (retired) Osmani.

The intention is to adopt a cautious attitude in view of our lack of adequate knowledge and in view of all that has happened in Pakistan since March last year when Mr Bhutto allegedly rigged the poll there. We do not wish to judge because we are not in a position to judge. We can only hope that General Zia has learnt from the mistakes of Mr Bhutto and held an election which the people of Bangladesh by and large regard as having been more or less fair.

The caveat having been entered, it should be said that the situation in Bangladesh is generally favourable for the consolidation of General Zia's position. Economically, Bangladesh is better off today than at any time during the last 7 years since its liberation. Gen Zia's personal reputation remains high. After a succession of bloody coups and the late Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's earlier experiment in one-party rule and assassination, the people yearn above all for stability and order. He has managed to win over from the GOJ camp Mr Attaur Rahman and some other important leaders--they switched sides barely 3 days before the voting. He has shown himself to be adept in the art of political management. All this should stand him in good stead in the weeks and months ahead. Here again it is necessary to enter a caveat which is that he must not be vindictive to his opponents. The opposition candidate, General Osmani, himself is a highly respected figure in Bangladesh, and the supporters of the late sheikh, even if in a minority, are too numerous to be suppressed. In a country like Bangladesh which has no strong democratic tradition to fall back upon, the presidential system can easily degenerate into an autocratic one as, indeed, it did under the sheikh. General Zia must be aware of this danger and ward against it. Caution may be in order in allowing political activities but not suppression and vendetta. In order to face the difficult tasks ahead he will need the support of all well-meaning Bangladeshis who, on their part, should give him an opportunity to prove his bona fides even if they prefer a parliamentary system of government as many of them doubtless do. Perhaps his opponents will be more willing to cooperate with him if he ends the martial law and ceases being the chief of the army staff to become a truly civilian president.

PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN, PRC SIGN COMMODITY EXCHANGE PROGRAM 10 JUNE

BK1107502 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 10 Jun 78 BK

[Text] A border [as heard] exchange program between Pakistan and China was signed in Gilgit this morning. The program is the 10th in a series under the border trade agreement signed in 1967 between Pakistan's northern areas and China's Sinkiang Province.

Pakistan will import among other things jeeps, livestock, cotton and silk, textiles, light industrial products, chinaware, steel, hardware and hand tools in return for medicinal herbs and [words indistinct] drugs, dry fruits, cotton and nylon textiles and cigarettes.

BRIEFS

TARAKI RECEIVES U.S. ENVOY--The Directorate of Information of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has reported that Mr Mohammad Taraki, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister, received Theodore Eliot Jr, ambassador of the United States in Kabul, for a farewell tour [as heard] of his office at [words indistinct]. [Sentence indistinct] [Text] [Kabul in English to Europe 1900 GMT 11 Jun 78 LD]

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